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PART XX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS

OF

PERSIA AND ARABIA.

September and October 1904.

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ERRATUM.

Page 222, Inclosure in No. 124, heading should read, "Mr. Brodrick to Government of India."

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. November 1904.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Persia and Arabia.

Part XX.

No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 1.)

Sir, *India Office, September* 1, 1904.

WITH reference to your letter of the 30th June, 1897, which conveyed Lord Salisbury's concurrence in Lord G. Hamilton's proposal to approve the action of the Government of India in empowering the Resident at Aden to issue ammunition to the protected Chiefs of Southern Arabia, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to inclose a copy of a letter from the Government of India in which it is proposed to extend this system with the view of discouraging the trade in arms from Jibuti.

Mr. Brodrick proposes, subject to Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, to approve the action of the Government of India.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick

(Secret.)

Sir, *Simla, August* 4, 1904.

WE have the honour to refer to the correspondence ending with Lord George Hamilton's Secret despatch dated the 9th July, 1897, regarding the authority given to the Political Resident at Aden to issue ammunition to Arab Chiefs in the Aden Protectorate, on payment, subject to certain limitations.

2. In order to discourage the trade from Jibuti and to keep in touch with the arms and ammunition in possession of the tribes in the Protectorate, the Government of Bombay have now recommended that the Political Resident at Aden should be authorized to meet readily all reasonable wants, on payment, from the Aden Arsenal, thereby making it unnecessary and unprofitable for the tribes to go elsewhere for their arms and ammunition, and easier for the British authorities either to increase or stop their supply should occasion demand.

For these reasons, we have accepted the recommendation of the Government of Bombay, and trust that our action will be approved.

We have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.
KITCHENER.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.

No. 2.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from the Resident at Aden, dated the 13th July last, inclosing a letter from Mr. Fitzmaurice, of the 12th July, relative to the Aden boundary delimitation.

It is requested that these papers, which are sent in original, may be returned to the Political Department when done with.

India Office, September 1, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Resident, Aden, to India Office.

(Confidential.) *Aden, July* 13, 1904.

COPY of Mr. Fitzmaurice's Secret letter, dated Camp Perim, the 12th instant to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London.

(For Political Resident, Aden),
(Signed) J. DAINES, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

Note.—A copy of this despatch has been forwarded to the Bombay Government and to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Government of India.

Sir, *Aden Boundary Commission, Perim, July* 12, 1904.

WITH reference to the Commission's Reports of the 1st and 26th October, 1903, dealing with the status of Rube'aten, Na'wa, Joban, and Dabiani, as forming part of the "tribes of Yafa" admitted by the Iradé of the 13th February, 1903, as forming one of the "nine cantons," I have the honour to bring to your notice what would seem to be an admission by the Turkish authorities of Yaman that Rube'aten belonged to the Harhara Sultans of Yafa As-Sufal.

2. In the previous papers of the Aden delimitation, allusion is made to a letter from General Jopp, Resident at Aden, dated the 28th November, 1894, and addressed to the Government of Bombay. The contents of the letter, which I have not seen, appear to be to the effect that in 1894 the Turks contrived to induce the Upper Yafa Sultans, through the Sheikhs of Juban and the Ahl Hajaj, to come in to Sana'a, where they were entertained and given presents; and that the Turkish Governor-General then succeeded in obtaining from them an acknowledgment of the supremacy of the Porte, by offering to restore "a place called Ar-Rabatain which the Turks had seized."

3. This was reported to General Jopp by the Sultan of Lahej, who is connected by marriage ties with "Upper" Yafa, at a time (1894) when there was no question of delimitation nor of the British Government pressing its claims to Yafa as a whole. It would therefore appear to be genuine, and is of sufficient importance to quote to the Porte, should it be necessary to obtain from the latter a formal recognition that Rube'aten forms part of Yafa.

4. Not having seen General Jopp's letter, I am suggesting to the Resident his attaching a copy of it to this letter. The matter has hitherto escaped notice, but it may

be well, even at this late date, to have it included in the Commission records for possible future reference.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to Political Secretary, India Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FITZMAURICE, *Commissioner,*
Aden Boundary Commission.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Resident, Aden, to Government of Bombay.

Sir, *Aden, November* 28, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to furnish Report on the action of the Turkish Government with reference to the Upper Yafai.

2. For some years past the succession to the Sultanate of the Upper Yafai has been disputed by Sultan Muhammad Ali Hirhira on, the one part, and his cousins, Sultan Kahtan and Saleh-bin-Umar-bin-Husen, the sons of the late Sultan, on the other part.

3. The disputed succession has caused divisions among the various clans of the Upper Yafai, and, in consequence, no Sultan has been elected Chief by the unanimous consent of the clans.

4. Sultan Fadthl-bin-Ali, the Abdali, is married to the niece of Sultan Muhammad Ali Hirhira.

5. On the 29th October, 1894, I received a letter, dated the 27th idem, from the Abdali, inclosing one to his address from Sultan Muhammad Ali Hirhira, in which it was stated that, at the instigation of certain Chiefs of Joban and Ahl Hujaj, he had resolved to go to the Turkish Government at Sana, as they had promised to appoint him Ruler over Ar-Rabatain, which formerly belonged to the Upper Yafai, but was seized by the Turks some twenty years ago.

6. On hearing this news Sultan Saleh-bin-Umar-bin-Husen, fearing to lose his share in Ar-Rabatain, sent his brother, Sultan Kahtan, to Sana.

7. On the 8th November, 1894, I received a further letter from the Abdali, saying that he had heard that the Porte had telegraphed to Sana to give the Yafais 166 dollars as a present, and to pay them a salary of 1,000 piastres per mensem, *i.e.*, about 166 dollars. Further, that the 4th Class of the Medjidi was to be conferred on each, and that if they wished to go to Constantinople the Sana Treasury was to supply them with the necessary money.

8. As a *quid pro quo* the Upper Yafai were to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Turkish Government.

9. The Yafai are still stated to be at Sana.

10. The concluding part of the Abdali Sultan's letter is significant; he writes:—

"If the news about this stipend, &c., be true, perhaps all the leading men from the Yafai would go to Sana for the same."

11. The Upper Yafai are under no engagements with the British Government, and with the Lower Yafais we have only an engagement of friendship and peace, dated the 21st February, 1839, and it may be inferred that the Sultan of the Abdali's remarks allude to the probability that the Lower Yafai on hearing of the pecuniary benefits received from the Turks by the Upper Yafai will most probably follow suit and for a consideration place themselves also under Turkish suzerainty, and knowing how avaricious the Arab is, this contingency is not unlikely to follow in due course.

12. It is quite possible that the Société de Tombac may be the instigator in this move as it may be part of their policy to obtain influence in this manner to further their project of gradually extending their monopoly of tobacco trade into territories of Chiefs under engagement and Treaties with the British Government.

13. Whether this be the case or not, a glance at the map will show how very undesirable and disquieting to the country it would be if the Upper and Lower Yafai country is gradually absorbed by the Ottoman Government and Turkish sway be allowed to extend so far south to the Abayan, within a few miles of the sea-coast and flanking the countries of our Chiefs.

14. The only remedy I can suggest would be to make a Protectorate Treaty with the Lower Yafai, but this even, if acceptable to the Chief, would prove costly to Government, as these Chiefs are more wide awake now than formerly, and would stipulate for a very heavy stipend, as a set-off against what he might expect from the Turkish Government, and this would again prove most inconvenient, as neighbouring States now in receipt of comparatively small stipends, would demand in fairness theirs being raised to, anyhow, a similar amount as might be accorded to the Lower Yafai.

15. Her Majesty's Government may not think it necessary to move at all in this matter, but I consider it my duty to lay the position of affairs before them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. JOPP, *Brigadier-General,*
Political Resident, Aden.

Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

Sultan Fadthl-bin-Ali, the Abdali, to Resident, Aden.

(After compliments.) *28th R. Akkir*, 1312 (*October* 27, 1894

WE have received a letter dated the 27th R. Akkir, 1312, from Sultan Muhammad Ali Hirhara, the (Upper) Yafai, as you will see it, inclosed in this. He is gone to Sana through Sheikh At-Tairi (this Sheikh is Ruler of Zaidi country). We have also heard that Saleh-bin-Umar-bin-Husen, whose father was formerly the Yafai Sultan, and at present his brother Kahtan is the Sultan, is also gone to Sana. All the above-said are at Sana, and complain about sedition prevailing amongst them. The news is well known that they (Turks) will give them soldiers to seize Ar-Rabatain, whence they will go to Al Mahjaba. This news is from the mouths of people. Perhaps you have received this ascertained news. Whatever fresh news we hear we will write you about.

May you be preserved.

Inclosure 5 in No. 2.

Sultan Muhammad-bin-Ali-bin-Saleh-bin-Ahmed-bin-Shaikh Ali Hirhira, to Sultan Fadthl-bin-Ali, the Abdali.

(After compliments.) *9th R. Akkir*, 1312 (*8th October* 1894).

WE inform you that we have received many letters, some from Al Hadi and others from Sheikh Saleh-bin-Saleh At-Tairi and Awn Ad-din Al Umari, residing in Joban, and from the Sheikhs of Joban and Ahl Hujaj, in which they wrote to us to go to the Sublime Government (Turkish Government), saying that we would get any object that we wished, as the Government wanted us to obey them. Also the Kadthi of the Yaffai was called by the Turks. They (Turks) do not want anything from them except their obedience. We have therefore resolved to go to the Government, as God said, "Obey God and his Apostles, and your Governor, the great Sultan of Islam and Monarch of two earths and two seas, and servant of the Sacred Shrines at Mecca and Medina." This we do for the sake of God and Sheikh Ali Askar and Mosta. We sent from each tribe, namely, Sheikh Naji-ba-Ali and some of his relations, respectable men of Mosta, and Sheikhs of Joban and Bani Hujaj. When Umar-bin-Husen heard this he sent his brother in company of two men, with a view that he might return from Joban in their country. But they came to know that we were firm in our intention to go to Sana. Therefore, they went with the Kadthi Muhammad Ali from Joban through fear of Ar-Rabatain. When we left the Yaffai country we got three letters to the effect that Ar-Rabatain, &c., are placed in our hand in the countries of Ar-Radtha'in, Hijaji, Jobani, and Nawi, and we have been appointed Ruler over these places. We beg your pardon for not consulting you. This is what we did according to our sense, as God destined that. Also Sheikh Saleh-bin-Saleh told us that he had sent you a blood horse. A good horse brings nice young ones. He gives you his best compliments. The Sheikhs who are with us and those of Mosta, Joban, and Sheikh Musa'id Sa'id Al Hujaji, the above-said Kadthi Awnuddin, our lad Haj Mothana Al Amudi, and the writer of this letter, Naji-bin-Ali Askar Au Nakib, give

you their best compliments. Please give our best salaams to all the Sultans of Ahl Mohsin and to our brother Saif-bin-Umar, and to all who are with you, and thousand salaams to your good self from us.

P.S.—If Sheikh Ali Mohsin Al Askar of Al Mosti come to you to take seeds of jowari on credit, please tell them to take care of Ahl Da'ir so that they might go by the road of Abyan or Al Yaman.

Inclosure 6 in No. 2.

Sultan Fadthl-bin-Ali, the Abdali, to Khan Bahadur Muhammad Saleh Jaffer.

(After compliments.) *8th J. Awal*, 1312 (*November* 6, 1894).

IT is not hidden from you that we have received news from some of our people who know the news of the Turks, that on Thursday, the 26th R. Tani, 1312 (25th October, 1894), the Porte sent a telegraph to Sana to give to some particular Yafais who are gone there each 1,000 piastres, equal to 166 dollars or thereabout, as a token of their good will towards them (Yafais), and also stipend of 2,000 piastres to every of them monthly. The telegraph further says that it is the order of His Imperial Majesty (the Sultan of Turkey) to confer on every of these title of Medjidi of the 4th Class. The telegraph, in addition, intimates that if they would go to home of safety (Constantinople), the Treasury of Sana should supply them with all their wants, so that they may not be put to trouble about their victuals. If they do not go there and return to their country, the Sublime Porte keep the same at their option. The revenue of their country is for them, but they should not exact anything from the subjects except what they are entitled to receive according to the Sharia. Up to now the Yafais who have been to Sana have not yet returned from Sana. When we hear further news about them, we will let you know about. Please inform his Excellency the Resident about this, and give him our best compliments. If this stipend was true, perhaps all the leading men from the Yafais would go to Sana for the same.

May you be preserved, and salutation.

No. 3.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 1.)

Sir,

India Office, September 1, 1904.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Villiers' letter of the 16th August, transmitting a copy of Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 130 of the 18th July last, on the subject of the proposed Henjam–Bunder Abbas cable.

Mr. Brodrick admits that the arrangement of 1868 is of little value in supporting a demand for a land line to Bunder Abbas, but, nevertheless, the fact that such a concession was actually granted by the Convention of 1868 would strengthen the hands of the Persian Government in resisting any claim by Russia to compensation on account of the Henjam–Bunder Abbas cable.

In the meantime, however, Mr. Brodrick thinks that no further action is necessary pending the reply of the Persian Government to Sir A. Hardinge's last note.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 4.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated Perim, 31st August, relative to the Aden boundary delimitation.

India Office, September 1, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Mr Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *August* 31, 1904.

I HAVE received the two following telegrams from Sir N. O'Conor :—

Telegram No. 38, of the 29th August—

"Our proposal for settlement of frontier has been telegraphed by Porte to Vali for opinion of Turkish Commission."

Telegram No. 39, dated the 31st August—

"Is it not possible to draw line from Kuwah to Murad so as not to deprive Turba garrison of water? And can Bir Hali be left to Turks?

I have sent following telegram, No. 30, dated the 31st August, to Sir N. O'Conor :—

"Your Excellency's telegram No. 37. On the 29th August, Turkish Commissioner telegraphed to the effect that British Commissioner will insist on full claims of Subaihi up to Kudam, &c., if settlement you have proposed is delayed. Turkish Commissioner, at my instance, sent another telegram to-day suggesting that as far as Hasisi line of frontier might follow crests of hills, and follow shore thence to the east foot of Murad, wells being thus left to garrison of fort. Above telegram was dispatched before your No. 39 reached me. Mouth of proposed canal would be secured to us by line as above described, but such a line would only be possible with Turks [*sic*].

No. 5.

The Imperial Bank of Persia to the Chief Manager, Imperial Bank of Persia, Tehran.—(Communicated to Foreign Office, September 2.)

(Translation.)
(Private and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) 25, *Abchurch Lane, April* 7, 1904.

PLACE yourself in communication with British Minister, and in the event of his arranging advance to Persian Government of 200,000*l.*, at 5 per cent. interest per annum, you are authorized to lend bank's name to transaction. Terms arranged here.

No. 6.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 2.)

Sir, *India Office, September* 1, 1904.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Villiers' letter of the 23rd August, asking for his observations upon that part of Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 18, Commercial, of the 19th July last, which deals with the question of Sirri Island.

In reply, I am to say that it appears from the papers forwarded to the Foreign Office with my covering letter of the 19th August, that Sir A. Hardinge has been in direct communication on this subject with the Government of India; and the language he held to M. Naus appears to be in harmony with the views of that Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 7.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated Perim, 1st September, 1904, relative to the Aden boundary delimitation.

India Office. September 1, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Perim, September* 1, 1904.

I HAVE to-day sent the following telegram to Sir N. O'Conor :—

"Memorandum presented to Porte on the 11th August has now been received. It is important that description contained in third paragraph should be limited to the three points referred to in my telegram of the [?] 17th [?] last paragraph, as survey did not fix position of Rakid. With reference to Commission Diary, dated the 25th May and paragraph 5 of your despatch No. 646 to Lord Lansdowne, there is no longer any difficulty as regards [?] Turbat-abul-Esrar. In telegram from Porte, see your Excellency's No. 38, it was stated that Murad line would not be insisted on by you. I informed Turkish Commissioner that your Excellency must have been misquoted by Grand Vizier."

No. 8.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulahek, September* 2, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Loan Agreement which was authorized by your Lordship has this morning been completed with the Persian Government.

M. Naus is leaving to-day for Europe.

(Sent to India.)

No. 9.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 2nd September, relative to the acceptance by the Ameer of Afghanistan of the McMahon Award.

India Office, September 3, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 2, 1904.

ON the 30th August a letter, dated the 12th idem, was received from the Ameer, in which it is stated that in deference to the Government of India's wishes His Highness agrees to demarcation, and accepts McMahon's Seistan boundary award without reservation. It is evident, however, from the tone of the letter, which is somewhat petulant, that it is not without much reluctance that Ameer agrees to this.

With regard to the disputed irrigation questions, on which McMahon has still to give his award, Ameer asks to be furnished with details. McMahon estimates that six weeks from the time when the heat permits of work being begun will be sufficient for carrying out demarcation.

No. 10.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 3, 1904.

WITH reference to your letter of the 25th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran,* reporting that the Agreement for the advance of a further sum of 100,000*l.* to complete the loan made to the Persian Government in April of last year was signed yesterday.

I am to suggest, for Mr. Brodrick's consideration, that arrangements should be made for placing the sum in question at the disposal of the Imperial Bank of Persia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 11.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, July* 23, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, with reference to my despatch No. 111 of the 20th ultimo, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to the Government of India on the subject of the Island of Sirri.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Sir A. Hardinge to Government of India.

(No. 34.)
Sir, *Gulahek, July* 22, 1904.

I HAVE received Major Cox's despatch No. 162 of the 11th ultimo, to which reference was made in the Government of India's telegram to me of the 13th instant respecting Sirri Island, and I have the honour to offer the following observations with respect to it.

The Government of India will have seen from my despatch No. 111 of the 20th ultimo that I informed the Ain-ed-Dowleh that I would report to Lord Lansdowne his remarks about Tamb and Aboumousa, but that a controversy on the subject might reopen the question of the ownership of Sirri, in respect to which we had never explicitly admitted Persian claims.

It is therefore open to His Majesty's Government, if they deem it desirable to do so, or if a recommendation to that effect is made by the Government of India, to

* See No. 8.

reopen the question of Sirri by a reply through me to the Ain-ed-Dowleh's language, as reported in that despatch, without the necessity of a reference to the Sheikh of Shargah. I would not wish to revive any hopes which the latter Chief may entertain of recovering Sirri, in the loss of which he has long *de facto* acquiesced, in case we should find it convenient to drop the question.

M. Naus, as you are aware, has consented to strike out Sirri from the list of customs posts enumerated in the "Règlement Douanier," so that we shall not commit ourselves by accepting that instrument to a recognition of Persian sovereignty over the island, and can keep this circumstance in reserve, to be used by us in the event of any difficulties such as those which Major Cox anticipates arising in connection with the adjacent pearl fisheries, or of interference with these by Customs or other Persian officials.

I agree with Major Cox in thinking that, under present circumstances, any new assertion of Persian as against Arab rights in the Gulf should be vigorously resisted, but in the case of Sirri we are face to face with a Persian occupation in which we have acquiesced for very many years, and which, though we are justified in not formally recognizing it, there seems no special reason at this moment to challenge unless the Persians force the question upon us.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 12.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, July* 23, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, with reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 34 of the 25th April, 1902, and to my despatch No. 11, Persian Gulf Series, of the 22nd December, 1903, copies of correspondence which have passed between the Government of India and myself on the subject of the Borasjun-Ahwaz-Mohammerah telegraph line.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Government of India to Sir A. Hardinge.

Sir, *Simla, June* 2, 1904.

I AM directed to forward, for your information, copy of a communication from Mr. McDouall, Vice-Consul at Mohammerah, No. 33, dated the 16th March, 1904, regarding a proposal to improve the telegraphic communication of Mohammerah.

2. I am to inquire whether any arrangement, such as that suggested by Mr. McDouall, could be proposed with any prospect of success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS W. DANE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Vice-Consul McDouall to Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball.

(Confidential.) *Mohammerah, March* 16, 1904.

IN reply to your Confidential letter No. 236 of the 10th instant, asking for my opinion on the subject of telegraphic communication from Mohammerah, I have the honour to report that the absence of telegraphic communication with Bussorah does undoubtedly at times delay cargo here, as cargoes may arrive from the Karun for shipment and space not be reserved or time allowed for shipment, these things being arranged by the Steam-ship Companies' agents at Bussorah. *Vice versâ*, the landing agents here seldom are aware before the arrival of a steamer how many lighters will be

required, unless the vessel is sufficiently long in Bushire for telegrams to Bussorah to be sent down by runners who take six hours or more.

There would probably be difficulties in the way of a junction with the Fao–Bashar line, independently of which a cable across a much-navigated river would be liable to damage.

In my opinion, the best arrangement for telegraphic communication would be for the Persian Borasjan–Naseri line to be partially taken over, as the Tehran–Meshed line is, with one European inspector and a signaller at Mohammerah and Naseri, there being one at Borasjan, or better, the Behbehan–Borasjan section replaced by a line from Behbehan to Kaseran, the most direct route according to a report by the late Colonel Wells, R.E.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Sir A. Hardinge to Government of India.

(No. 37.)

Gulahek, July 21, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive the Government of India's despatch of the 2nd ultimo respecting the improvement of telegraphic communications with Mohammerah.

The proposal mentioned by Mr. Consul McDouall was made by me to His Majesty's Government in my despatch No. 13 of the 31st January, 1902, and in which I reported that the Persian Minister of Telegraphs was willing that the Indo-European Telegraph Department should work the Borasjun–Ahwaz–Mohammerah line on the same terms as the Tehran–Meshed one, but His Majesty's Secretary of State for India "did not consider that the power of sending messages over the line would be of any benefit to the Indo-European Telegraph Department, and that the political advantages which the Government of India would derive from working the line were sufficient to justify the grant of an annual subsidy such as that given in the case of the Tehran–Meshed one. If, however, the Shah's Government were prepared to pay all expenses there would be no objection to the loan of an Indo-European Inspecting Officer for the purpose of the line." (Lord Lansdowne's despatch No. 34 of the 25th April, 1904.)

As the only object of the Mukbar-ed-Dowleh in allowing us to take over the line was to reduce the expenses which its working by the Persian Government entailed on him, the proposal fell through.

I do not know whether the Mukbar-ed-Dowleh would be prepared to entertain it again at present. He acted on his own responsibility during the Premiership of the Atabeg-i-Azam, who entertained friendly feelings towards him, in many matters as to which he might now hesitate to do so without informing the Ain-ed-Dowleh, and the latter would certainly refer it to the Shah, whose acceptance is, I should say, at least doubtful. But if His Majesty's present Secretary of State for India is prepared to rescind the adverse decision of his predecessor, I would again approach the Mukbar-ed-Dowleh with respect to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 13.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 139.)

Gulahek, July 28, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a Circular received by me from the Persian Foreign Office, informing me that the sale or transfer to foreigners of concessions granted to Persian subjects or of shares and interests in them will henceforth be invalid without the special sanction of the Persian Foreign Office.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh informed me yesterday, in the course of conversation, that this new Regulation, which, as mentioned in my despatch No. 137 of the 24th instant, was specially inserted in the Sani-ed-Dowleh's Motor-car Concession, was intended to prevent surreptitious transactions as that by which the Moayyer-ul-Memalek had conveyed, or attempted to convey, half his interest in the Telephone Concession to the

Russian Bank. In reply to a question as to what steps were being taken by the Persian Government in order to cancel this particular transaction, his Excellency said that the Moayyer had been ordered to refund to M. Grube any money received by him in respect to it, and that if he pleaded inability, owing to inadequate means, to do so, the money would be paid by the Government and deducted in instalments from the annual pension of 3,000*l.* a-year paid to the Moayyer as a brother-in-law of His Majesty the Shah.

I would venture to submit to your Lordship the advisability of having printed in "Hertslet's Persian Treaties" and in "Aitcheson's Treaties" the note from the Persian Government acquainting me with this new rule, as Persian laws and regulations have a way of becoming obsolete, and it seems to me advisable that my successors should have their attention drawn to this one as likely to be useful to them in the future.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Sir A. Hardinge.

(Translation.)

July 25, 1904.

WHEREAS the Persian subjects holding concessions from the Persian Government sometimes enter into transactions with foreign subjects which afterwards lead to contention between the two parties and cause trouble to the Persian authorities, orders have been issued in accordance with the Royal command that the Persian subjects who hold or will hold concessions must not, as far as their concessions are concerned, enter into any transactions, whether sale, transfer, grant, or partnership, &c., with foreign subjects without the permission and approval of the Persian Government.

Should any one act against this prohibition, the transaction will not hold good, will not be certified, and will be considered null and void.

I have therefore thought it necessary to bring this prohibition to your notice, and have no doubt that your Excellency will inform the British subjects residing in Persia to this effect.

(Signed) MUSHIR-ED-DOWLEH.

No. 14.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 140.)

Gulahek, July 28, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in continuation of my despatch No. 122 of the 1st July, a copy of a report by Lieutenant Lorimer on the affairs of Arabistan, with special reference to the protection by the Sheikh of Mohammerah of the upper Karun trade route from Ahwaz to Shuster, attached to it a Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas, with the views expressed in which I agree.

I have at the same time the honour to transmit a Memorandum by Mr. Churchill of a conversation with the Nizam-es-Sultaneh and the Moin-ul-Tujar respecting M. Van Roggen's Arabistan irrigation schemes, for which, as reported in my Secret despatch No. 133 of the 19th instant, the Persian Government is desirous of borrowing money from us. Both the Nizam and the Moin doubtless fear that irrigation works carried on on a large scale by Europeans would tend to open up the country to foreign enterprise, and thus react disadvantageously upon the local influence which, as important native landowners, they possess there. They also doubtless fear the competition of the owners or lessors (be they a Persian or a foreign Company) of the Crown lands irrigated by the proposed works.

As arranged last winter, I am dispatching the Gholam, who takes this month's correspondence for India, on a trial trip viâ Arabistan. The Bakhtiari Chiefs, to whom Mr. Preece wrote inviting them to facilitate his journey, have, as your Lordship will observe by their inclosed reply, deprecated the regular use of the route by our messengers, and though Mr. Preece thinks this fact may be due to their having been rendered less

well disposed by recent friction with Messrs. Lynch, I am inclined to suspect, from conversations which I have had with the latter's agent here, that the real motive is fear that if our Gholams take to using the road the post may follow their example, with the result that Persian officials will enter Bakhtiaristan, and the seclusion they now enjoy may be jeopardized. I am instructing Mr. Preece to reassure them on this point.

With reference to their disputes with Messrs. Lynch and to my telegram No. 82 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Preece on this subject. The Chiefs would be well advised if they would spend a portion of their increasing receipts which the road yields in putting it into proper order, but Messrs. Lynch would also be wise not to try to force their hands, and to let His Majesty's Consul-General make the best arrangements in his power.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Report by Lieutenant Lorimer respecting the Affairs of Arabistan.

(No. 17. Confidential.)

IN compliance with your No. 469 of the 9th May, and No. 594 of the 8th June, 1904, I have the honour to submit the following statement of my views on the subject of the future protection of the waterway between Ahwaz and Shuster (Shililieh).

2. The main features of the situation are that the attacks to be guarded against are planned and executed by the Khasarij, a nomadic Arab tribe, over whom no one exercises any direct control.

These invaders are countenanced, harboured, and even abetted, by the Arabs of the villages of the Miandab, which are situated between the Shateit and the Ab-i-Gargar, and are directly under the Persian Governor of Arabistan.

The channel of the Gargar is very winding, and is commanded throughout by high ground; in many places one or other of the banks rises perpendicularly to a height of 50 feet from the water's edge. The "Shushan" is entirely unprotected against rifle fire. There is no part of it to which a Martini bullet cannot penetrate, and the passengers and crew cannot even obtain cover from view.

The navigation, especially during hot weather, is very difficult, and the "Shushan" frequently runs aground.

On the up journey she ties up for the night at a small village called Saïd Hassan, and she lies for two or three nights at least at Shililieh, the terminus. At the latter place the ship is commanded at short ranges by a semi-circle of high bank. Here there is no village immediately at hand.

The "Shushan" could at any time be destroyed by a few determined men, either by night or day, in despite of any small guard which might be on board of her. It was only undue precipitancy which made the recent attack miscarry. Between Band-i-kil and Ahwaz there is little real danger to be reckoned with; the territory is the Sheikh of Mohammerah's, and the river is some 300 yards wide.

3. The circumstances being as they are, it is, in my opinion, quite hopeless to look to the Persian Government for any radical cure of them.

In case, however, they attempt to make fair promises, and slur over the matter, as on previous occasions, or if for any reason it may be thought desirable to insist on their assuming direct responsibility, it is necessary that we should have a definite scheme formulated, on the acceptance and guarantee of which we should make a definite stand.

The only way in which the safety of the Ab-i-Gargar could be assured by the Persian Government would be by the disposal of a permanent garrison down the right bank of the river in fortified posts.

4. The details of the scheme might be as follows:—

Two posts at intervals on the right bank at Shililieh and two more at Saïd Hassan, each to hold a garrison of twelve Persian soldiers. The posts to be strongly built, safe against attack, and properly loopholed; 200 rounds of ammunition per rifle to be always present in each post. Full garrisons to be present when the "Shushan" is on the Gargar.

These posts would, I think, if properly run, secure the safety of the ship at night. The courage of the Persian soldiers could not be put to a very severe test, as it is extremely unlikely that there would be any necessity for them to quit their forts.

The protection of the rest of the course of the Gargar could only be adequately secured by a mounted escort accompanying the ship. Such an escort of thirty sowars is at present being supplied from Band-i-kil to Shililieh by the Sheikh of Mohammerah.

The Persian Government could not, however, itself find the sowars, and if it did enlist Arab horsemen it would be quite unable to enforce the due execution of their duty.

As an alternative an infantry post would be required at Band-i-kil, and the three points, Band-i-kil, Saïd Hassan, and Shililieh, would have to be linked up with similar posts. Without a better geographical knowledge of the course of the Gargar I could not say exactly how many connecting posts would be required. The danger to be guarded against is from mounted men who could strike rapidly at any point where a considerable interval was left.

Whatever the number of posts, I would have no faith in their efficiency while in Persian hands.

Such unprecedented measures, however, on the part of the Persian Government would show the tribes that it had been subjected to very powerful pressure, and might incline them to respect, not the Persian soldiers or the will of the Persian Government, but the power behind them.

5. I do not believe, however, that the Persian Government would ever consent to give satisfactory guarantees for any scheme like that described. When they have declined to do so it will be time for us to demand that the services of some outside agent should be called in. Personally I would strongly favour our making this our original demand.

There are only two living forces in this neighbourhood, the Sheikh of Mohammerah and the Bakhtiaris. Though the Bakhtiari have acquired some land in the Miandab, still the affairs of the Gargar do not fall naturally within their sphere, and I see no reasons for favouring its extension in this direction, even were the Bakhtiari Khans themselves favourably disposed to it. As to what their feelings on this subject would be, I have no means of forming a conclusion.

6. In my opinion, it is to the Sheikh of Mohammerah that we should turn. The tribes and politics involved are entirely Arab. He is the only man who has any power to form a combination against the Khasarij, and to throw obstacles in the way of their ever reaching the Miandab.

It is difficult to arrive at a clear understanding of the relations existing between the Sheikh and the Khasarij. He has assured me repeatedly that he has sent to warn them that attacks on our interests will arouse his enmity; at the same time, it is well known, though not acknowledged, that individuals of the tribe are able to come into Nasri and Ahwaz with impunity. Quite lately, I am informed, there was some shooting by some Khasarij close to the "Shushan" at Ahwaz.

There can, however, be no question of the Sheikh's power to guarantee the safety of the "Shushan" between here and Shililieh. The mere presence of something less than 500 of his horsemen has reduced the whole of the country between Ahwaz and Shuster, and between Shuster and Disful, to absolute quiet and security. The routes are being traversed night and day by unarmed caravans. Two months ago outrages were frequent, and these roads were extremely dangerous.

7. The next question is that of his willingness to undertake such a task, which entails considerable responsibility and trouble, with few compensating attractions.

I had a long interview with him on the 16th instant, and as Mr. McDouall had informed me that Government wanted the Sheikh sounded on the subject, I endeavoured to ascertain his feelings. The Sheikh said that he was altogether averse to the affair in itself, but as affording a means of displaying and cementing his friendship with the British Government, and earning its support, he was willing to consider the question. He required time, however, to give an answer, and could not do so until the arrival of the new Governor, the Azem-es-Sultaneh. The connection is not obvious.

Still, a long conversation ensued, and I was left with the impression that the Sheikh would be prepared to take up the work if the details of the arrangement were worked out with us, and the payment guaranteed by us.

8. The whole question was discussed in considerable detail, but entirely in the third person, with reference to the obligations which would have to be apportioned between any two parties entering into an agreement for the protection of the "Shushan."

The object might be obtained (I cannot state my authority) by the entertainment of sixty or seventy sowars at 5 krans each per day, and the construction of two or three posts. The men so entertained would be found in everything, would be posted permanently, and their entire services and constant presence at their posts would be guaranteed. It must be distinctly understood that at present it is impossible for me to pronounce that the Sheikh is prepared to undertake the protection of the route, and no

reference, on the strength of this letter, should be made to him, except through me, assuming or implying any such readiness on his part.

Haji Reis, the Sheikh's mentor, was not present during my interview, and it is probable that when the Sheikh has had time to talk with him I may be enabled to write more definitely.

This ends all that I have to say on the subject under immediate consideration.

(I allow the above to stand as originally written, but I may now add that I have had an interview with the Haji Reis this morning. He spoke freely on the subject, which he had already discussed with Mr. McDouall at Mohammerah. He said that the Sheikh would assume the protection of the "Shushan," and the responsibility for all damage, if the Persian Government would guarantee a monthly payment of 1,000 tomans. In default of payment, he would be able to deduct his claim from the revenue which he pays to the Government, and this would be sufficient guarantee.

I conclude that this proposal has already been communicated at full length by Mr. McDouall.)

9. Passing from immediate considerations, the present situation seems to me to offer an opportunity of handling issues much larger than that of the protection of our trade between Ahwaz and Shuster.

In the first place, it affords a point of contact with the question of the relations of the Sheikh of Mohammerah with the British Government.

It would be presumptious in me, with the very limited view, both historical and existent, which is open to me, to offer any opinion on the subject, but I would fail in my duty were I to refrain from expressing my impressions, which I think are generally shared here. Put in their crudest form, these are that the services which we ask and expect from the Sheikh are out of proportion to the advantages which are guaranteed by our friendship as it exists at present.

So long as the Sheikh is satisfied, there is no argument in favour of the British Government's increasing the measure of its favours, or of actual or moral obligations which may at any moment become inconvenient; but it is precisely as to the Sheikh's attitude of mind towards this matter that I feel anxiety. Personally, I believe that he is not satisfied; that all the services which he has rendered and is rendering are to be attributed to a desire to compel, by deserving it, the more assured and intimate support of the British Government. He is disposed now to count up his services, and to ask himself what they have gained him. What equivalent has he gained for the trouble and expense incurred in practically extinguishing piracy on the Shat-el-Arab? What for discontinuing, some eight years ago, his own trade steam-boats on the Karun in deference to Messrs. Lynch Brothers? What is he now to obtain for his personal inconvenience and expenditure of 100 tomans a-day for the protection of our trade in Persian Arabistan? I state the questions as I conceive he puts them to himself. The list might be lengthened by numerous small items. For his present services he will not receive a penny from the Persian Government, and it was only after some hesitation that he undertook the work, determined, I believe, by the counsels of Haji Reis, and the consideration that it would form a real claim on our gratitude, and offered hopes of a development of our friendship which was worth a large price. He obscurely hinted to me, however, that he would not be averse to the British Government inducing the Persian Government to refund his present expenses.

The answer which his mind makes to his own questions are not, I think, favourable. Repeated disappointment may lead him to find that he can stand on his own legs, or induce him to throw himself into the arms of any new-comer who will make more specious promises than ourselves.

Evidences of Russian interest in Southern Persia and Arabistan have not been wanting this year, and the Sheikh has received their special attention. The latest indication is that the agency for the Russian line of steamers has been transferred from M. ter Meulen, Russian Consular Agent, to Haji Reis' son—*i.e.*, to Haji Reis—and it is Haji Reis who furnishes the Sheikh with his policy.

It is unfortunate that on the only occasion, I believe, on which the Sheikh has appealed for our aid—in the case of the Mohammerah Customs—it was impossible for us to accord it.

He makes no secret of his conviction that we deserted him on this single occasion of need.

However much he protests his reliance on, and his love for, us, he does not omit to hint that he hopes more from us. The position becomes serious the moment any doubt is admitted as to the impossibility of his separating himself from us.

10. While on general grounds I am satisfied that the protection of the Ahwaz–

Shuster route, the object at present in view, can only be satisfactorily accomplished through him, I will not conceal that I regard the fact with favour in view of its bringing us into closer association with the Sheikh, creating a relation in which he will be obliged to take our counsel, and we shall be obliged to appeal openly in his support.

That we are prepared to take his part in any right cause is, I trust, not open to doubt; but that this readiness should be more clearly ascertained, even in one small matter, cannot, I think, but have a beneficial result on our relations with him, and his with the Persian Government.

11. Another issue which seems to be brought within the possibility of discussion is that of concessions on the Karun.

The grounds which induce this belief are as follows:—

(1.) We have grievance against the Persian Government in the fact of its complete indifference to the safety of our trade in Arabistan. Supposing our present negotiations to result in complete success, they will not remove our right to complain at what has occurred in the past. Another real grievance could be easily brought into existence by calling on the Government to clear the channel of the Gargar which at present abounds in impediments and dangers to navigation. They would doubtless refuse to take any action.

(2.) The Karun has been examined this year with a view to ascertaining the practicability and expense of applying it to purposes of irrigation.

The investigation was made by the Shah's Dutch engineer, and a desire may be argued on the Shah's part to turn the waters of the Karun to some personal pecuniary purpose.

(3.) Venturing on speculation, it may be imagined that Russia's preoccupation and loss of prestige in connection with the war may have weakened her influence in Persia, and consequently reduced the opposition which our ambitions may count on meeting with.

Taking these facts and suppositions in conjunction, it might be supposed that the moment was a peculiarly favourable one for seeking certain concessions on the Karun, provided always that the necessary capital were available for turning them to account.

12. These concessions would be for the construction of irrigation works between Shuster and Ahwaz, and for a railway from Mohammerah to Shuster rendered necessary by the withdrawal of the water from the river. If to these were added the repair and lease of the Shuster bridge, so much the better.

Of course, where the irrigation of the Sheikh's territory was concerned—a large part of the whole—he would have to be treated with. The Persian Government could not give the concession without his permission.

That an irrigation concession is under consideration can scarcely be doubted. Funds cannot be available in Persia, and report goes so far as to say that it is intended to call in foreign European capital.

If there is any truth in the report, we may expect to see this valuable concession, and with it the ultimate complete dominance of this province pass into the hands of foreign capitalists. Navigation becoming impossible, we shall then be forced to fight for an alternative method of carrying our trade when the circumstances may, perhaps, be less favourable.

13. I would conclude by stating that as soon as the present arrangements with the Sheikh of Mohammerah cease, the sailing of the "Shushan" should be stopped, and not resumed until entirely satisfactory arrangements have been made. This is, in my opinion, imperative, but will be highly injurious to trade interests. A previous breach of eight months in the sailing of the "Shushan" while it was under repair gave a great impetus to native traffic, and Messrs. Lynch found it very hard to recover their original position.

14. One point remains. The mere risk of pecuniary loss by the destruction of cargo which might be added to our bill of claims against the Persian Government is not alone to be considered. There is the safety of an Englishman, the captain of the ship, involved, and the apparent indifference with which this stake has hitherto been regarded cannot but lower the status of British subjects in this country, and serve to depreciate the British Government in the estimation of the public.

June 21, 1904.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas.

Sir Arthur Hardinge,

I QUITE agree with Lieutenant Lorimer that, in any measures which we may take for the protection of the "Shushan" and caravans between Ahwaz and Shuster, we should work through the Sheikh of Mohammerah entirely, and not through the Persian Government. Most probably, if it is to his interest to do so, the Sheikh could bring pressure to bear on the Khasarij tribe, as well as on the other Arabs who harbour them when out raiding, and I do not suppose he would find it necessary to make any great increase in the strength of the armed force which he now keeps up. The arrangement I would propose is that in return for an annual payment from us, the Sheikh should agree to keep a certain number of sowars along the line of the river from Ahwaz to Shuster (he already has men at Wais), and to find the necessary escort for the "Shushan" herself, who would replace the Persian guard the boat now carries; he should also guarantee the safety both of the boat and of the caravans along the road from Ahwaz to Shuster, and should be given to distinctly understand that he would be personally responsible for compensation in cases of robbery or violence to persons under British protection or in British employ. Apart from the benefit which our trade would derive from this arrangement, the fact of our subsidizing the Sheikh could not fail to strengthen our influence in this part of Persia, and would give us an additional reason for resenting any attempt of the Persian Government to curtail the Sheikh's power.

As regards the amount to be paid, I do not know whether our Government would consider the amount now asked, which comes to a little over 2,000*l.* per annum, as excessive, possibly in view of the greater security and greater facility in settling claims for compensation for robbery which might be expected to result, Messrs. Lynch Brothers might be induced to forego the claims for compensation for actual loss which they now have. It is not unlikely, however, that Sheikh Khazal might consent to accept a smaller sum, probably 100*l.* a-month would reimburse him for any extra expense to which he would be put.

(Signed) J. A. DOUGLAS.

July 27, 1904.

Inclosure 3 in No. 14.

Memorandum by Mr. Churchill.

I CALLED on his Excellency the Nizam-es-Sultaneh this afternoon, with the object of finding out his views on M. van Roggen's schemes regarding the Ahwaz Dam and irrigation works in Arabistan, as recommended in the Report which he presented a month or two ago to His Majesty the Shah, and which the Grand Vizier passed on to the Nizam-es-Sultaneh for his observations.

Haji Moin-et-Tujjar happened to be present, and I was thus able to hear the views of both these representatives of important vested interests in those parts.

The Nizam said he had carefully gone through M. van Roggen's Report, and had come to the conclusion that he was prompted in his recommendations by ulterior personal motives, and that his idea of forming a foreign Company to work his irrigation scheme was clearly for personal profit, but that the Shah would never consent to such a thing. The proposal to reconstruct the Ahwaz Dam was in principle undesirable, and no change in the present state of affairs was at all necessary. He referred to Haji Moin et Tujjar, remarking to me first that the latter had put half his savings into landed property on the Karun, and that his interests should personally be consulted as well as his (the Nizam's) own, and asked whether he wanted his land irrigated. The Moin replied that, as the Nizam well knew, he was against the reconstruction of the Dam, which was not at all necessary for his lands, as these produced grain without artificial irrigation. The Nizam added that any increase in the present water supply of his lands would, he knew, ruin his crops, which were ample as it was.

My impression, on the whole, was that both these gentlemen considered M. van Roggen to be an imposter and that they were both dead against his proposals and all reforms in the Karun Valley.

(Signed) G. R. CHURCHILL.

Gulahek, July 24, 1904.

Inclosure 4 in No. 14.

Bakhtiari Chiefs to Consul-General Preece.

[*Received July* 12, 1904.]

(Translation.)

YOU have written to us about sending the Legation Gholam from Ispahan to Ahwaz, as the British Minister had written to you about it. In Tehran the matter was spoken about, but it was not stated that a Gholam from us should be always on the road. As this way is very difficult and the road is by Kahkhuyeh. If it is simply this time it is easy, and whatever you order we are ready to do this time; but if we should always have to give men for this road, and should be made responsible for it, it is most difficult and is the cause of trouble to us. We ask you to do something that we should be excused of this work. When the Gholam comes this time only we will carry out the order in any way you may wish, and instruct and send a man with him, and will take him to anywhere you may order; but for the future we ask pardon, and beg that the trouble of this business may be taken from us. If it were possible we would never mention it. It is due to the difficulty of the way and its impossibility that we ask, and it is evident that through friendship and kindness you will take steps in this matter.

Inclosure 5 in No. 14.

Consul-General Preece to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 29.)

Ispahan, July 7, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your despatch No. 6 of the 13th June, forwarding me a copy of a letter from the Persian Transport Company regarding the Ispahan–Ahwaz road.

Previous to the receipt of this despatch the agent of Messrs. Lynch Brothers here told me that he had been instructed by Mr. Lynch to inform the Bakhtiari Chiefs that he was sending up Mr. Barlow (a nautical engineer) to paint the bridges, and at the same time to do the necessary repairs to the road. In reply, the Bakhtiaris referred to the proposal made to you, and declined otherwise to sanction the repairs, adding that they were doing such as were necessary themselves.

Copies of these letters are now inclosed.

Mr. Lynch's agent has since told me confidentially that, in spite of the Bakhtiaris' reply, which he had wired to London, Mr. Lynch had instructed Mr. Barlow to go on with the repairs.

It seems to me that Mr. Lynch, by his way of acting, wishes to irritate the Chiefs to the utmost, and completely nullifies all our efforts to bring the Chiefs and Mr. Lynch into line.

It is still doubtless within your recollection what Hajji Ali Kuli Khan said at their farewell interview as to what their action would be if Mr. Lynch gave them much more bother—viz., pay off the balance of 5,500*l.* and destroy the bridges. They have often hinted at the former before, and I think that they are very likely to do something in this way if Mr. Lynch does not alter his policy towards the Chiefs.

It is not possible for His Majesty's Government to pay the balance due to Mr. Lynch and take over the road. It would be easy enough now with the Vice-Consul at Ahwaz and this Consulate to work it and keep it running. His Majesty's Government might recoup themselves by withdrawing the Karun subsidy. The Bakhtiaris would be well pleased to sever all connection with Mr. Lynch. If Mr. Lynch's vagaries are allowed to continue he will succeed in completely alienating the Bakhtiaris from us. It is evident to me from his actions generally that Mr Lynch has some ulterior object in view.

It will be within your recollection that when in Tehran I referred to a letter which Sir Charles Hardinge had written to me for communication to Mr. Lynch, the copy of which I could not find. I now beg to inclose it for record in Tehran, as it may be useful for future reference.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. L. PREECE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 14.

Messrs. Lynch Brothers to Bakhtiari Chiefs.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Ispahan, June* 5, 1904.

WE have the honour to inform your Excellencies that we have received this day a telegram from our Ahwaz house reading as follows:—

"Inform the respectable Bakhtiari Khans that our engineer has proceeded to paint the bridges, also intending to make the necessary repairs upon the road on such opportunity.

"If the Khans agree with us inform us by wire."

We shall be greatly obliged if you send us your answer by return of this as early as possible so as the engineer, who is now on the road to make the repairs of it if accepted without delay as your Excellencies are aware of the utterly ruinous condition of the road and the difficult movement of the traffic.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYNCH BROTHERS.

Inclosure 7 in No. 14.

Bakhtiari Chiefs to Messrs. Lynch Brothers.

(Translation.)

Dear Sir, 24 *Rabi-ul-Awal*, 1322.

YOUR letter regarding the engineer's work is to hand and the contents noted. During our stay in Tehran we had an interview with the British Minister in the presence of Mr. Preece upon the subject and the present question existing between us and your firm pending the Minister's decision is that which side has to bear the expenses of the engineer. We have already dispatched labourers for repairs and making of the road.

If the arrangement discussed between us and your firm in the presence of the Minister in view of their undertaking, upon the limited amount of 5,000 krans and 1,000 labourers, accepted by them, there would be no objection for the engineer taking up the road repairs, if not, we have already dispatched men for working on the road, and the engineer will have to paint the bridges only.

(Signed) SARDAR MUFFAKHUM, &c.

Inclosure 8 in No. 14.

Foreign Office to Consul-General Preece.

My dear Preece, *Foreign Office, November* 19, 1903.

I HAVE received your letter of the 15th instant, together with Mr. Lynch's letter to you of the 17th instant.

There are two statements in Mr. Lynch's letter to which I fear I must take exception.

Mr. Lynch states: "As regards the Chiefs, Mr. Hardinge telegraphed us before signing the Agreement that they perfectly understood that 5,500*l.* was a mere estimate." As a matter of fact, the following is the text of Mr. Lynch's letter to Mr. Hopwood of the 18th February, 1898, which was telegraphed to me at Tehran:—

"It must also be clearly understood that all we undertake to do for 5,500*l.* is to erect the bridges and spend balance conscientiously upon track and caravanserais, and that this sum merely represents our opinion of outlay sufficient to induce traffic."

To this I replied in the following terms:—

"Mr. Lynch's intentions, as telegraphed by your Lordship, are perfectly understood by His Majesty's Legation."

You will note that there is no mention of the Chiefs in either of these communications, and that, far from 5,500*l.* being a mere estimate, it was the amount of the outlay which Messrs. Lynch undertook to make, and which, in their opinion, represented an "outlay sufficient to induce traffic."

As regards the additional expenditure incurred by Messrs. Lynch, it is further stated in Mr. Lynch's letter:—

". . . . We have at the lowest a strong equitable claim upon them. I understand the Foreign Office admit this."

I am at a loss to comprehend upon what ground Mr. Lynch bases this statement: I can only refer Mr. Lynch to my letter of the 15th May, in which the views of the Foreign Office founded on the terms of the contract, and on a document given to the Bakhtiari Chiefs and signed by Mr. Taylor are very clearly expressed. There has been no reply to my letter, nor any later occasion when either Lord Lansdowne or I have made any such admission as suggested by Mr. Lynch. It would, I think, be as well, in order to avoid any future misapprehension, that you should draw Mr. Lynch's attention to the points which I have raised in this letter.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES HARDINGE.

No. 15.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 141.)

My Lord, *Gulahek, August* 2, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch addressed by His Majesty's Consul at Kerman to the Acting Resident at Bushire respecting the affairs of Persian Beluchistan, from which your Lordship will observe that Major Sykes is well satisfied with the friendly attitude of the new Governor-General, the Rukn-ed-Dowleh, and with the new Governor of Beluchistan, the Zahir-es-Sultan, and further, that orders have been given for the reoccupation of Irafshan by Persian troops, a step on which the Government of India have long insisted as important to the security of the frontier. I shall take an opportunity of expressing to the Ain-ed-Dowleh my gratification at this satisfactory report.

I would respectfully invite the attention of Government to Major Sykes' remarks, with which I am personally disposed to concur, as to the advisability of deputing a British officer, rather than the Nazim of Makran, to meet the new Governor of Persian Beluchistan at the next year's conference on frontier affairs between our respective authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Consul Sykes to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 209.)

Sir, *Kerman, July* 16, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to forward you a copy of my No. 205 of 1904 to the Resident dealing with Beluchistan.

I trust that the arrangements come to will meet with your approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. MOLESWORTH SYKES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Consul Sykes to Major Cox.

Kerman, July 15, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE much pleasure in announcing that his Highness the Zahir-u-Sultan has been appointed Governor of Beluchistan. The purchase price has, however, been raised from 42,000 tomans—say, 8,000*l.*—to 47,000 tomans, which bodes ill for the hapless Beluch. On the two occasions on which I have met the new Governor-General of Kerman I urged on his Highness the necessity of appointing a strong intelligent Governor, and stated that there were various candidates for the post whom I could accept. The Governor-General is consequently entitled to some credit for selecting a man who is a personal friend of mine, and whose social and general status marks an advance even on the last appointment.

In this connection I would recall to your notice that last year the then Governor-General asked me to suggest a Khan for Governor, and I chose Vali Khan, who has fully justified the confidence I reposed in him.

Previous to this the Governors were invariably ignorant and frequently illiterate, consequently the change, from our point of view, is one to be hailed with the utmost satisfaction. Perhaps, however, a still more important fact is the admission by two successive Governors-General that this Consulate should be consulted as regards this most important appointment.

2. As soon as the appointment was confirmed I wrote both to the Governor-General and to the newly-appointed Governor that I proposed to ride in from Mahan and visit them. In reply the latter informed me that, had I not been coming in to Kerman, he had intended to spend a night at Mahan with me, to be posted up in the various questions affecting Anglo-Persian interests.

I would venture to point out that this intended visit is a proof that, apart from the Zahir-u-Sultan, the Governor-General is himself anxious to co-operate with me in improving Anglo-Persian frontier relations.

3. As the result of visiting the Governor-General, orders have been issued for regarrisoning Irafshan,* a matter of considerable importance, and one on which much stress has been laid by the Government of India, on each point discussed. His Highness was prepared to accept my views.

4. Last winter there was no meeting on the frontier between British and Persian officials, mainly owing to the fact that no reference was made to this Consulate.

I only heard through the Persian Governor that such a meeting was desired, and immediately pressed for it through Tehran; but the instructions were received too late. I would consequently propose that I be informed as soon as possible whether such a meeting is desired during the coming winter, and if so, when and where.

I have spoken to the Governor-General on the subject, and he agrees that it is advisable both that such a meeting should take place, and also that the cases against Hashim Khan, Silvat-u-Mamalik (*vide* my No. 169 of 1904), and other minor cases should be investigated on this occasion. It is hardly necessary to point out that it would be impolitic in the last degree for British Beluchistan to be represented at such a meeting by the Nazim of Makran, as the present Governor could not meet him as an equal, Beluchis rarely being allowed to sit before a Persian Governor.

I would consequently suggest that, if the new frontier appointment be not established, a British Political Officer be specially deputed to meet his Highness, who will, if treated as a friend and entertained as a European, prove most obliging. If, however, he be treated on a strictly official footing the results may be meagre.

5. For reasons given in my No. 170 of 1904, I hope that the question of the indemnities due by Sirdars Shah Jahan, of Magas, and Giand Khan, of Sarhad, may not be referred to except through me. In any case, the Zahir-u-Sultan has not authority to deal with this question, and, as I have already stated, pressing for the indemnities locally would be both useless and give an appearance of vindictiveness to British policy, which is, I feel sure, not intended. I have formally mentioned the subject to the new Governor-General; but I have stated that, until I receive fresh instructions, I shall not press the question.

6. In conclusion, Major Showers in 1901 and 1902, and Mr. Campbell in 1904, have settled numerous cases, and have enhanced British prestige in South-East Persia; and now that close co-operation between British officials on both sides of the frontier has been decided upon, our interests will, I anticipate, materially prosper.

Finally, friendly frontier relations in distant Beluchistan will react on the British position throughout South-East Persia and spread yet wider our deep-rooted political supremacy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. MOLESWORTH SYKES.

* Irafshan garrison, 1 officer, 30 sarbaz.

No. 16.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 142.)

Gulahek, August 3, 1904.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 132 of the 19th ultimo, your Lordship may have observed certain references to the question of the Sipeh or Ispe Kanat.

This is a small canal which the Indo-European Telegraph construction party had dug near their new station at Nasratabad Ispe or Sipeh, situated in the Kerman desert between Bam and Koh-i-Maliki-Siah. The Persian authorities objected to a work of this nature being undertaken without their formal sanction, and absurdly enough, instead of stopping it pending such sanction, obtained orders from Tehran to fill it up. I fancy from certain indications which have reached me that the Yemin-i-Nizam and not the Kerman officials acted as the prime instigators in this business.

As the result of the representations made by me to the Ain-ed-Dowleh, the Persian Government has ordered the Kerman authorities to reconstruct the canal themselves, and the incident is thus closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 17.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 143. Confidential.)

Gulahek, August 3, 1904.

My Lord,

FRESH complaints from His Majesty's Acting Resident at Bushire of encroachments by the Customs Department on the functions of the British quarantine officers in the Persian Gulf have led me, after communication with the Government of India, to address to M. Naus the two notes of which I have the honour to inclose copies herewith.

In the course of a visit which his Excellency paid me this morning, I adverted to these notes, and asked what answer he intended making to them. He said that he was in a difficult position, as both the Shah and the late and present Grand Viziers held him responsible for all quarantine and sanitary arrangements throughout Persia, and insisted on transmitting their orders on these matters to the local authorities through his Department. Dr. Bussière, he said, had no other position than that of medical officer to the Customs staff stationed on an unhealthy coast, and he thought it rather hard that Major Cox should have objected to his having, when plague appeared at Lingah, brought some serum direct from Paris for the purpose of renewing his supply. It was not unnatural that he should have selected as physician to a body of Belgian officials a French-speaking officer rather than one of our own doctors, who, apart from the language difficulty, had their hands already full of other work. He was as desirous as I could be that all friction with the British quarantine officials should be avoided, but when orders were issued to him in connection with the present epidemic by the Tehran Government he could not refuse to give effect to them. He had, however, caused my notes to be translated for submission to the Shah and the Ain-ed-Dowleh, and would shortly discuss the situation with them, and give me their replies.

I said I thought it best to explain to him quite frankly why the Government of India resented the recent proceedings in these matters of the Customs officials in the Gulf. As he knew, our commercial and political interests in that region greatly exceeded those of all other foreign Powers, but we had never, on the strength of these interests, encroached on the rights and independence of Persia. Within recent years, however, foreign

influences, which could not be called friendly to us, had appeared in the Gulf and had shown signs of seeking to challenge the special position to which the preponderance above described entitled us. Russian Consular officers and agents had been sent to Southern Persia, where they had no subjects to protect, and subsidized steamers from Odessa had endeavoured, for obviously political purposes, to develop a non-existent trade. It was only natural that the Government of India should take up the glove thus thrown down and should resist, amongst other things, any attempt to undermine an institution, such as our control of the quarantine arrangements affecting a shipping mainly British, which constituted a legitimate recognition by Persia of our peculiar and predominant interests in those waters. The certainty that such attempts would meet with very determined resistance impelled me most strongly to deprecate their continuance, and I did so once more, as I had done last year, in the interests of the cordial relations which it was my wish and my duty to promote.

M. Naus said he thoroughly understood my position, but observed that some years back when the Persian Government had offered to hand over to us the entire management of the quarantine in the Gulf ports we had declined the responsibility, and had confined ourselves to the loan of Indian doctors to be paid out of Persian revenues.

I replied that this fact only served to point my arguments. We had not sought to interfere in, or assume responsibilities for, the internal administration of Persia, but when, as within the last few years, we found ourselves confronted with a disposition in various quarters, Persian and foreign, to evict us from our established position as the leading foreign Power in the Gulf and to change existing arrangements to our detriment, we could not view any symptoms of such a tendency with indifference.

His Excellency said that it was surely an anomaly that the Residency surgeon at Bushire should prescribe quarantine and other sanitary measures in the Gulf ports without any reference to the Government of the country. In every State in the world the Central Government issued orders on these subjects to the provincial sanitary authorities. I reminded him that the arrangement aimed at in 1896 had contemplated the communication of the views and wishes of the Government of Tehran to the Residency surgeon through His Majesty's Legation, and that it was only because this practice had been discontinued, presumably owing to indifference and neglect here, that the Residency surgeon had acted on his own responsibility and authority in applying the prescription of the Venice Convention.

M. Naus said that I was doubtless aware that one result of the present cholera epidemic had been the establishment by the Shah of a Sanitary Council at Tehran, consisting of His Imperial Majesty's European physicians, of the various Legation doctors, and of certain Persian Departmental officials. The idea was that this Council or Board should transmit to all local sanitary officers the instructions of the Central Government at Tehran. Could it not do so in the case of our quarantine doctors in the Gulf, as well as in that of his own Customs subordinates in places where the latter were in exclusive and undisputed charge of quarantine?

I replied that this question might very properly be discussed between our two Governments, but I should wish to know whether it was proposed that the new Council should also transmit orders to the Russian Colonel in charge of the inland quarantine cordon in Khorassan, who had hitherto taken his instructions from the Russian Consulate-General at Meshed. The interference of the Persian authorities with our doctors in the Gulf seemed to me to present a curious contrast to the indifference displayed by them, notwithstanding the representations repeatedly made by me, to the proceedings of the Russian quarantine officers at Karez and Turbat-i-Haidari.

His Excellency said that the question of the Russian quarantine cordon would have to be discussed in connection with any revision of the existing quarantine arrangements. The Atabeg-i-Azam had, he knew, greatly disliked this Russian cordon, but had endured it. "Il l'a subi," was his Excellency's expression, "mais il l'a toujours vu de très mauvais œil." Unlike the Indian doctors, however, the Russian officers were not paid by the Customs, and he himself had therefore so far received no instructions respecting them. (They are, I may observe, paid, so at least I believe, by the Governor-General of Khorassan.) He thought, however, that the Persian Government would insist, if they refused to take instructions from Tehran, on the removal of their cordon to the Transcaspian side of the frontier.

I observed that if this were proposed the Russians would almost certainly reply that such an arrangement would not be feasible, since, owing to the numerous routes across the frontier, a much larger cordon would be needed to protect Transcaspia, whilst a small one was, for geographical reasons, sufficient at Karez and Turbat-i-Haidari. They would, moreover, probably threaten, if the Persian Government declined to pay their officers at

those places, to close the Transcaspian frontier, and thus deal a heavy blow at the Persian Customs revenue.

I understood from M. Naus that a point on which the Russians laid stress as justifying the presence of their cordon so far south was the necessity of protecting Transcaspia from epidemics being introduced through Khorassan from Afghanistan—a savage country which had no part or lot in any international sanitary arrangements, and no pretence of any sanitary organization of its own.

His Excellency admitted that the contention was a mere pretence, and that the cordon was exclusively political in its character and objects, but I think his remark worth noting. It is just possible that the Russian Government might deem it judicious to consent *pro formâ* to instructions being issued to its quarantine officers in Khorassan by the Tehran Sanitary Board, and in this case they would have to desist from interfering, in a manner contrary to international Conventions to which Persia is a party, with arrivals viâ Seistan from India. They have probably already ceased to do so since the establishment of our Consulate at Turbat-i-Haidari. But they might plead the necessity of maintaining their cordon subject to a Persian supervision, which they would take care to render merely nominal, as against arrivals from Afghanistan, and as their real object is not sanitary, but is the maintenance of armed posts of observation and political activity in the interior of Khorassan and on the Afghan border, it could easily be reconciled with a show of acquiescence in the authority of the Tehran Sanitary Board.

With regard to this latter body, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a circular note in which the Mushir-ed-Dowleh had announced its constitution to the foreign Legations here, and to which I have replied that I shall be happy to instruct Dr. Odling to attend its meetings as British Delegate.

The Persian members of the Board are not yet named, at least not all of them, but the following will be the European doctors composing it:—

Shah's physicians—
- Dr. Schneider (French), President.
- Sir Hugh Adcock (English).
- Hon. Lennox Lindley (English).

Legation physicians—
- Dr. Odling (English).
- Dr. Walter (Russian).
- Dr. Loew (German).
- Dr. Obermayer (physician to the Turkish Embassy and Delegate in Persia of the Constantinople Board of Health, in succession to the late Dr. Vaume).

The President of the Board, Dr. Schneider, a French military doctor of Alsatian origin, is also physician to the French Legation, and is regarded in that capacity as a member of the Tehran Diplomatic Body. He is, I believe, a good doctor, is pleasant socially, and is on very friendly terms with myself, but is disliked by many Europeans here as talkative, pushing, and, in the opinion of some of his detractors, not too scrupulous. He has succeeded by dint of pertinacity and largely owing to the mistakes and tactlessness of Sir H. Adcock, in entirely superseding the latter in the good graces of the Shah, who at first regarded him with dislike, and only took him as one of his doctors in compliance with a personal request made to him by President Loubet during His Majesty's latest visit to Paris in 1902.

M. Naus, whose doctor he is, and who is very intimate with him, told me that it was thought that I might protest against his appointment as President of the Board, as he was a Frenchman, and thus the citizen of a nation allied to Russia. It would have been very foolish of me to do so, as, quite apart from the fact of the good relations now happily existing between the French Government and His Majesty's, I should only have irritated the Shah, who is free to appoint his own favourite doctor to a post of honour on a Medical Board established by himself; but the mere idea that I should take such a step is a characteristic illustration of the extent to which political jealousies and suspicions pervade the whole atmosphere of this Court.

What the new Board will do still remains to be seen. If it proceeds in a business spirit, enacts rules and a fixed procedure for its Government, and holds, with the support of M. Naus, regular meetings, it may become a real institution, and obtain an international sanction and status somewhat similar to that of the Sanitary Council at Constantinople, though whether such a result is, from our point of view, entirely desirable is perhaps open to doubt. To me it appears on the whole more probable that, with the disappearance of the cholera panic which has brought it into formal existence, it will

gradually cease to assemble and will eventually be relegated to the limbo in which so many Persian schemes of reform sleep. Your Lordship will no doubt instruct me whether, and if so, within what limits, you would wish to support or discourage its activity.

As regards the more immediate subject of this despatch, namely, the interference of the Customs with our doctors in the Gulf, the position is, I think, somewhat as follows: Our opposition to this interference, when first attempted last year, checked it for a time, and it would probably not have been resumed, at any rate in an active form, but for the cholera outbreak at the beginning of the year at Kermanshah, and it gradual spead throughout the greater part of Persia. As it is it has assumed proportions which have compelled us to take notice of it again, and it is as yet uncertain how far the Persian Ministers will, under the circumstances, persevere in it, knowing as they do that such perseverance may involve them in an unpleasant controversy and oblige them to reopen the thorny question of the Russian quarantine in Khorassan. M. Naus would, no doubt, be glad, if he could, to be rid both of the Russian quarantine officials in that province and of our own doctors in the Persian Gulf, and to get the entire management of all sanitary matters in Persia into his own hands, but I expect he will be reluctant, for the sake of the immediate attainment of that object, to embark in a diplomatic conflict either with the Russian Legation or with ourselves.

I shall probably, before my messenger leaves, be able to send your Lordship his official answer to my remonstrances, and this will doubtless indicate the line which the Persian Government intend to take.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Sir A. Hardinge to M. Naus.

Gulahek, le 23 Juillet, 1904.

M. le Ministre,

MR. GRANT DUFF a eu l'honneur d'entretenir votre Excellence pendant mon absence au Lar des questions délicates et difficiles qui résultent à Bouchir et dans d'autres ports du Golfe Persique de l'intervention non autorisée de M. le Dr. Bussière, médecin du Consulat de France, dans les affaires quarantenaires de cette région.

Je viens de recevoir un long Rapport du Major Cox, gérant la Résidence Britannique au Golfe Persique, dans lequel il me signale plusieurs incidents tendant à établir que, malgré les déclarations que M. Lavers m'a faites, le Dr. Bussière intervient activement dans l'administration sanitaire de ces ports, et que son action, appuyée par les autorités locales, est de nature à mettre dans une position à la fois fausse et embarrassante le médecin de la Résidence, lequel, d'après les arrangements intervenus entre nos deux Gouvernements, est seul responsable pour les services quarantenaires.

C'est ainsi que, lorsqu'il y a quelque temps un fonds fut formé dans le but de faire face aux dépenses nécessaires pour combattre l'apparition du choléra et que le Dr. Condon s'adressa au Karguzar pour lui proposer d'affecter une partie de ce fonds à l'achat de désinfectants à Bombay, ce fonctionnaire lui répondit qu'aucune démarche en ce qui concernait les affaires d'hygiène ne pouvait être faite sans l'autorisation du Directeur-Général des Douanes et du Dr. Bussière. Vers la fin du mois de Mai le Dr. Condon fit venir des Indes du sérum de peste, en vue de l'apparition de quelques cas de cette maladie à Lingah. Le Dr. Bussière s'adressa immédiatement dans le même but à Paris.

J'ai déjà informé M. Lavers de la réunion tenue au Charborj, où, sur la proposition de M. Dambrain, appuyée par lui-même, M. le Dr. Bussière fut élu Secrétaire d'un soi-disant Comité Sanitaire.

Le 20 Juin le Dr. Bussière partit en tournée d'inspection de certains villages où régnait l'épidémie cholérique, et le Consul-Général de Russie, en parlant à notre médecin de cette tournée, lui fit remarquer que le Dr. Bussière "était le médecin sanitaire de Bouchire."

Désireux d'éviter autant que possible des désagréments entre l'Administration Quarantenaire et celle de la Douane, j'ai prescrit à nos médecins dans le Golfe Persique une attitude des plus conciliantes vis-à-vis des prétensions du Dr. Bussière. Aussi, quand ce dernier revint l'autre jour de sa tournée, au cours de laquelle il avait visité plusieurs foyers d'infection, le Dr. Condon ne fit-il point de difficulté pour l'exempter de la quarantaine, privilège qu'il ne pouvait exiger de droit.

Mais je ne puis, sans aller à l'encontre des instructions catégoriques que j'ai reçues du Gouvernement des Indes, pousser la complaisance jusqu'à voir annuler de fait les fonctions des médecins délégués par ce Gouvernement, sur la demande de celui du Schah, au Golfe Persique, par leur transfert effectif à celui du Consulat de France et de la Douane.

Votre Excellence ne m'a point caché qu'elle trouvait peu satisfaisant le système résultant de la demande faite il y a quelques années par le Gouvernement Persan à celui des Indes, et qu'elle considérait certains médecins d'origine Indienne employés dans les ports du Golfe comme étant insuffisamment qualifiés pour leur tâche. Il ne m'appartient pas de discuter la justesse de ces appréciations; je ne puis douter, cependant, que si votre Excellence me met à même de démontrer au Gouvernement des Indes que ces employés n'ont point la compétence voulue, je pourrai les faire remplacer par d'autres. Pour ce qui est de l'exercice en principe par des médecins Anglais de la surveillance sanitaire dans le Golfe Persique, votre Excellence partagera, je pense, l'avis de mon Gouvernement que cette tâche doit être confiée à un médecin Européen. Or, nous estimons, si tel est le cas, que la prépondérance immense de nos intérêts commerciaux dans le Golfe, le voisinage de l'Inde et de la région Arabe, qui subit l'influence politique de cet Empire, enfin le fait que les vaisseaux auxquels sont appliquées les mesures quarantenaires naviguent, à peu d'exceptions, près sous notre pavillon, constituent un ensemble de raisons pour ce que ce médecin soit plutôt Anglais que représentant d'une autre nationalité étrangère. C'est pour ce motif que le Gouvernement des Indes attache, comme votre Excellence le sait, une si grande importance au maintien du régime actuellement en vigueur.

Si le Gouvernement Persan est d'un avis contraire au nôtre, et désire mettre un terme à cet état de choses, il doit, me semble-t-il, s'adresser dans ce but par mon entremise ou par celle de son représentant à Londres, au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique. Il est à présumer que dans ce cas il s'adressera également à la Russie pour faire supprimer le contrôle sanitaire, infiniment moins justifié, que des officiers militaires Russes exercent dans l'intérieur du Royaume près des frontières Perso-Afghanes.

Mais tant que le *statu quo* n'est point modifié de droit, il est évidemment désirable qu'il soit observé dans la lettre et dans l'esprit. Si j'ai bien compris les explications que m'a fournies M. Lavers, M. le Dr. Bussière est médecin du Consulat de France et en même temps du personnel de la Douane, et ne prétend exercer aucun contrôle en vertu de l'une ou de l'autre qualité, en matière quarantenaire. Il est cependant incontestable qu'il existe une tendance chez les autorités locales à le faire sortir de son rôle, et à lui attribuer des fonctions jusqu'à présent exercées par le médecin de la Résidence de Sa Majesté Britannique. Il va sans dire qu'avec la meilleure volonté et les dispositions les plus conciliantes de part et d'autre, une pareille tendance peut facilement amener une tension de rapports et des conflits nuisibles aux intérêts de deux Administrations. Il existe même un danger que si les Gouverneurs et sous-Gouverneurs Persans s'imaginent qu'ils ne doivent point tenir compte des recommandations de nos médecins, à moins qu'elles ne soient approuvées par le Directeur-Général de la Douane et le Dr. Bussière, ils ne leur donneront aucune suite, et que la santé publique en souffrira.

C'est pour prévenir ces résultats que, sur l'invitation du Gouvernement des Indes, je viens prier votre Excellence de donner des ordres explicites à MM. les Directeurs-Généraux du Sud et de l'Arabistan de ne point intervenir soit directement, soit indirectement par l'intermédiaire du Dr. Bussière, dans l'application des mesures quarantenaires. Ces mesures, comme le sait votre Excellence, sont appliquées par le médecin de la Résidence, conformément aux provisions d'un acte international, celui de la dernière Conférence Sanitaire, dont la Perse est signataire, et sans attendre d'ordre spécial à cet effet, soit du Gouvernement Persan, soit de la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique. C'est ainsi que le Dr. Condon avait appliqué le mois passé aux provenances de Bahrein une quarantaine de dix jours, lorsque M. Waffelaert l'invita, sur un ordre qu'il disait avoir reçu de votre Excellence, à leur imposer une quarantaine de quatre, et l'obliger à répondre qu'il avait déjà fait le nécessaire et ne pouvait admettre l'intervention en cette matière du Directeur de la Douane.

Laissez-moi ajouter, M. le Ministre, que le Résident *par interim* de Sa Majesté Britannique, tout en sauvegardant, comme il en a le devoir, les droits acquis à nos médecins, est animé vis-à-vis de votre Administration des sentiments les plus amicaux, et a toujours fait de son mieux pour empêcher que ces différends ne réagissent sur ces rapports avec elle. Je crois utile d'appuyer sur ce point, pour que votre Excellence ne pense pas qu'il s'agit, comme vous l'avez cru en ce qui concerne le Sistan, d'un parti pris contre les fonctionnaires de la Douane. Les faits que je vous ai signalés prouvent d'ailleurs assez bien

que la situation actuelle se prête à des incertitudes et à des doutes qu'il est opportun et même urgent de résoudre.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Sir A. Hardinge to M. Naus.

Gulahek, le 1er Août, 1904.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que, selon un nouveau rapport, cette fois télégraphique, qui m'est parvenu de Bouchir, M. le Directeur-Général par intérim des Douanes du Sud a modifié, sans consultation avec le médecin de la Résidence, et même à son insu, les arrangements établis par ce dernier, conformément à ce qui fut fait par son prédécesseur en 1893, afin de préserver la ville de Bouchir du choléra. Il serait allé, d'après les informations du Major Cox, jusqu'à enlever des huttes que le Dr. Condon avait érigées à l'entrée de Bouchir pour la détention de voyageurs arrivant de l'intérieur du pays, dont il aurait interdit absolument l'admission, mesure qui, tout en étant jusqu'à un certain point efficace, ne paraît justifiée par aucune Convention Sanitaire, et menace de donner lieu à des désordres.

J'ai donné l'ordre au Major Cox de protester auprès de M. le Directeur-Général *par interim* contre cette intervention dans l'administration de la quarantaine à Bouchir, en ajoutant qu'avant de prendre des mesures de ce genre il aurait du moins dû en conférer avec le Résident de Sa Majeste Britannique en sa qualité de supérieur immédiat du Dr. Condon.

Votre Excellence n'a point encore répondu à la note que j'eus l'honneur de lui adresser en date du 23 Juillet. Je me permets, par conséquent, de lui signaler l'incident précité comme nouvel indice de la tendance chez la direction de la Douane à empiéter sur le domaine du médecin de la Résidence en matière quarantenaire, et à vouloir modifier de fait, sans qu'une entente ne soit intervenue à ce sujet entre les deux Gouvernements intéressés, le régime quarantenaire depuis longtemps établi dans le Golfe Persique.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Note from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

(Translation.) *July* 25, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, by command of His Majesty, a Board of Health, composed of His Majesty's Physicians, the Medical Officers of the Foreign Legation, and Representatives of different Ministries, is to be held under the presidency of Dr. Schneider, His Majesty's special Physician, and to ask you whether you would agree that Dr. Odling be a member of the Council in question; and to state that, if so, Dr. Odling should attend the Board when required and notified by Dr. Schneider.

(Signed) Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

No. 18.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 144.)

Getchissar, August 8, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Kerman on the subject of the export of Beluchis as slaves to Arabia from the various minor ports of Persian Mekran.

I called the attention of the Persian Government to the existence of this traffic in 1901, and your Lordship will observe from Major Sykes' Report that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whilst officially reprimanding the Beluchistan authorities, sent a private intimation that he would like to acquire a slave himself.

Since then I have had occasion to address a fresh representation to his Excellency, owing to information received by me from the Resident at Bushire and the Senior Naval Officer in the Gulf, to the effect that the formalities required by the Brussels Act, with a view to preventing the slave trade, were totally neglected in the Persian ports. Captain Kempe arrested off Kishm a dhow bound for Muscat, which had on board one of these kidnapped Beluch slaves, and whose Captain had apparently been permitted to leave the Mekran coast without any inquiry or issue of papers.

I fear, however, that mere representations to the Persian Government will be productive of very little practical effect, and that the only way of stopping the evil is to interest the Customs Department in it, and to get M. Naus to issue strict orders to his native Customs agents in Persian Mekran carefully to verify, in accordance with the provisions of the Brussels Act, the passenger and crew lists of all dhows proceeding to Arabia. One difficulty in the way is, of course, the fact that all the provisions of the Brussels Act have in view the embarkation of negro passengers, and that Beluchis do not come under that head. It is possible, however, that if special instructions were to be issued for examining Beluchis shipped on dhows for Arabia in the same way as is done in accordance with the Brussels Act in the case of negroes, numerous cases of kidnapping which now escape notice might be detected, and a considerable check given to this form of the slave trade.

I am sounding M. Naus unofficially and privately as to his willingness and ability to assist in carrying out this object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Major Sykes to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 206.)

Kerman, July 18, 1904.

Sir,

AS a result of recent inquiries from Persian sources, I find that there is a considerable and apparently increasing transport of Beluchis from the small harbours of Persian Mekran to Arabia, where they are sold as slaves. These wretched people are frequently cultivators who, under some flimsy pretence, are sold by the Beluch Chiefs or Sirdars to merchants who ship them out of the country, as described above.

I understand from Hussein Khan of Bam, who has recently returned from a pilgrimage, that this infamous traffic was deplored by various individuals whom he met at Muscat, and his informants would probably furnish important evidence. Hussein Khan especially mentioned two officers of the Sultan's artillery and a gunner. They are all three Persians, hailing from Bushire, Tabreez, and Bam. The gate-keeper, too, of the fort above the custom-house is a Geluch, from Geh. With this description I trust there may be no difficulty in identifying the various individuals.

The chief offenders are stated to be Sirdars Seeid Khan, son of the late Hussein Khan of Geh, and Abdi Khan of Dashtiari.

I have drawn the attention of the Rukn-ed-Dowleh to this scandal, and gained his co-operation by pointing out that owing to this traffic there are fewer people left to pay taxes. His Highness will consequently take what measures he can, but the Customs could presumably effect a good deal more.

Each Governor returns from Beluchistan with a number of slaves, one of which was offered to me by the late Governor Vali Khan. I understand that Mirza Nasrullah Khan drew the attention of Tehran to this traffic during my absence in 1901. The result was an official rebuke from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, followed by a private message to the effect that he was anxious to become the owner of a slave.

This being the state of opinion, it would appear to be difficult to take any effectual steps in this direction, but further inquiries, both from the telegraph authorities and in Oman would, I am convinced, bear fruit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. MOLESWORTH SYKES.

No. 19

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 145.)

My Lord, *Gulahek, August* 14, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have sent to Lieutenant-Colonel Minchin, His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed, on the subject of an attempt made by the Russians in Meshed to obtain control of the Seistan and Sarakhs telegraph lines, by endeavouring to get them to pass first over their instruments, and thence to those of the Persians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 19

Sir A. Hardinge to Consul-General Minchin.

(No. 18.)

Sir, *Gulahek, July* 23, 1904.

ON receipt of your telegram of the 15th instant reporting the attempt made by the Russians in Meshed to obtain control of the Sarakhs and Seistan telegraph lines by endeavouring to get them to pass first through their instruments and thence to those of the Persians, I instructed Mr. Churchill to call on his Excellency the Mukhbar-ed-Dowleh and to strongly urge him to resist such an attempt.

The Mukhbar-ed-Dowleh said that the matter had been reported to him by the Khabir-ed-Dowleh from Meshed on or about the 14th instant, and that he had replied that on no account were the two lines to pass first through the Russian instruments. His reason for so strongly objecting was that if this were done all their messages would be known to the Russian operators, and his opinion was that on no account could such a state of affairs be tolerated.

He had told the Khabir-ed-Dowleh that if any alteration were to be made in the present conditions it must be preceded by a discussion of the question at Tehran, and could not be done by him without definite instructions from the competent authorities. He promised to repeat these instructions to his subordinates at Meshed the same evening.

On my calling on his Excellency yesterday he informed me that he had done so, and assured me that he would resist this attempt on the part of the Russians to obtain control of the Seistan line with all his force. He thought that, failing to obtain their ends on the spot, the Russians would no doubt address the Government on the subject, and that the latter would refer to him for an expression of his views. He would then give his reasons for so strongly objecting to the proposal, and combat it as best he could.

I suggested that if his Excellency thought the moment opportune I could send in a protest against the proposed arrangement to the Persian Government, but his Excellency desired to be allowed to discuss the matter with his colleagues if it should arise, as he foresaw it would, and suggested that, in the event of his not convincing them, it would then be time to send in a protest.

As I have every confidence in the sincerity and friendly sentiments of the Mukhbar-ed-Dowleh, I am taking no further steps for the present.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 20.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 146.)

My Lord, *Gulahek, August* 15, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my despatch No. 126 of the 17th July, that the cholera has now ceased, for the last ten days or so, to be epidemic in Tehran and the adjacent districts. There have been no further fatal cases among

Europeans since that despatch was written. Mr. du Vallon, His Majesty's Vice-Consul, was attacked on the 31st July, but rapidly recovered. On the other hand, there has been a slight recrudescence of the disease in Kum, probably due to the arrival of caravans from the south, and there is always a possibility of a second visitation in a few weeks' time, should it be brought here by arrivals from Fars.

It is, however, I am glad to be able to report, also decreasing in that province. I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch received by me from Mr. Consul Grahame, and I would respectfully invite your Lordship's attention in the above connection to that officer's account of the excellent services rendered by Surgeon Captain Condon and Lieutenant Stokes.

The disease has meanwhile spread eastwards through Semnan to Meshed, and M. Naus informs me that the deaths in that city have averaged from 300 to 400 a-day within the last few days. Aga Fazel Mamegani brought it back with him in his caravan from Meshed to Shah Abdul Azim, where he stayed on his return journey to Nejef, and his wife was one of those who succumbed to it. Mamegani has now left for Irak Arabi; the Grand Vizier visited him at Shah Abdul Azim before his departure, and politely urged him to avoid, by hastening it, all further risks of being himself attacked.

Owing to the measures taken by the local Government for cleansing the city and preventing the sale of fruit and vegetables, Resht remained, contrary to all expectation, free of cholera till a day or two ago. It has, however, now broken out there.

I may mention that the seven days quarantine, announced as having been imposed on all arrivals at Baku, have been replaced, owing to the observation instituted by Russian doctors at Enzeli, by a mere medical inspection, and the movements of our messengers have not therefore suffered any delay. The appearance of cholera at Resht may, however, alter this.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Consul Grahame to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 33.)

Sir, *Shiraz, July* 27, 1904.

WITH reference to correspondence on the subject of cholera in Shiraz, ending with my telegram No. 35 of the 26th July, I have the honour to inform you that all reports from Persian sources during the last two or three days point to a diminution of the mortality within the town. The fact that fewer applications for medicine have been made to our dispensary yesterday and this morning would tend to confirm these statements. It is, however, possible that the diminution of the mortality within the town is counterbalanced by an increase thereof in the suburbs and neighbouring villages. I had requested his Highness the Moayyed-es-Saltaneh (the only local authority, so far as I am aware, who has remained at his post, acting, indeed, as a provisional Governor) to furnish me statistics. He has not yet done so, and even if these were forthcoming they would not, in my opinion, be trustworthy, Moayyed-es-Saltaneh, with some other notables of Shiraz, being apparently anxious to minimize the ravages of the epidemic.

The maximum mortality in any given day has been variously quoted to me from Persian sources at from 700 to over 1,000. The Persian who gave me the latter figure averred that the number of corpses had been so great that it had been difficult to find men to carry them to the washhouses, and that many of the bodies had to be washed by the relatives, the number of the professional washers being too small to cope with the work.

With reference to your despatch No. 13 of the 8th July, on the subject of a British doctor being sent to Shiraz for the emergency, you will, I am sure, share my feeling of satisfaction, both from a humanitarian and political point of view, that the British Resident at Bushire should have found it possible to spare Captain Condon's services for that purpose.

That officer reached Shiraz early on the morning of the 18th, and although himself somewhat indisposed physically, owing to the fatigue and heat of the long journey from Bushire, at once threw himself with energy into the work of distributing medicine from house to house, and giving directions for tending the sufferers.

This work had already been begun on the 17th instant, on which day a large number of sufferers were assisted—chlorodyne and cholera mixture (Dr. Odling's prescription) and

other drugs being administered to them, and elementary directions being given for combating some special symptoms of the disease.

In this connection I should wish to bring under your notice for special commendation the excellent services rendered by Lieutenant Stokes (3rd Skinner's Horse), who, as you are aware, has been staying with me for the last three months to study Persian.

This young officer spared himself no fatigue, either in the task of distributing medicine from house to house, or in the very painful one which devolved on him on the 23rd instant of assisting Captain Condon to tend the late Mr. van Lennep, during the eight or nine hours of his agony terminating in death.

On the 24th instant Lieutenant Stokes, who for some days previous had been suffering from diarrhœa, went down with cholera. Since yesterday he has been out of danger and progressing favourably.

The regulations of the Indo-European Telegraph Department not permitting that the dispensary in the garden belonging to that Department should be opened to the public in the present circumstances, it was arranged that a small gateway at the gateway of this the Residency House should be temporarily used as a dispensary.

In the work of distributing medicine at this dispensary the Rev. W. A. Rice rendered very efficient aid.

I must also specially recommend Mr. Joseph Brasseur, a French commercial traveller, a trained chemist, who has devoted himself entirely to the task of preparing the medicines required, and latterly of dispensing them through a hole cut in the back door of the I.E.T.D. garden. To the above-mentioned names I must add those of Mr. Joliffe (Imperial Bank of Persia) and Mr. C. E. Christmas (Inspector, I.E.T.D.) for devotion in nursing the European sufferers.

It is painful for me to have to record that out of five (or perhaps six) cases of cholera which have occurred in this and the small group of adjoining gardens now inhabited by Europeans three have terminated fatally, despite the skill and attention of Dr. Condon—viz., L. Gerrard, a girl about twelve years of age, on the 22nd instant; Mr. van Lennep on the 23rd; and on the morning of the 26th a small boy, son of an Indian cook in the service of Mr. van Lennep. These numerous "home" cases have necessarily debarred Captain Condon to a certain extent from attending to the many calls made on him by Persians, but he has given his services unsparingly to all, and I am convinced that his presence here and the work done by or under his directions has contributed largely to enhance our prestige among the people of Shiraz.

In conclusion, I venture to express the hope that you may deem it advisable to bring the names of Lieutenant Stokes and Captain Condon under consideration in the proper quarter, for some mark of appreciation of the services rendered by them during this cholera epidemic in Shiraz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE GRAHAME.

No. 21.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 147. Confidential.)

Gulahek, August 15, 1904.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to report to your Lordship that the obstructive attitude of the Valiahd, whom, as an Heir-Apparent likely to succeed at any moment to the throne, the Persian Ministers are reluctant to cross, is still delaying the satisfaction of the demands made by my United States' colleague and myself in the matter of the Urumiah murders.

The Russian Consular authorities in Azerbaijan are supporting His Imperial Highness, in accordance with the Russian system of opposing on principle any British interest in Persia, however non-political. The Russian Vice-Consul at Urumiah has, for the first time during his residence in that town, paid an ostentatiously friendly visit to the Mullah, who is believed to have encouraged the murders and protected their authors, and whose removal, though at one time promised by the Persian Government, the Ain-ed-Dowleh now objects to effect, on the ground that it might offend Mahommedan feeling.

Mr. Tyler, my United States' colleague, and myself had a long interview recently with his Highness, and I told him that until the Mullah was removed I could not comply with the Valiahd's request that Mr. Wratislaw should return to Tabreez. I

would, however, I added, in deference to His Imperial Highness' wishes and those of the Persian Government, endeavour to arrange for his being relieved by another Consular officer, who could, after his departure, watch over the interests and security of the English and American missionaries.

I hope your Lordship will sanction my deputing Major Gough, from Kermanshah, for this purpose. Mr. Wratislaw shares your Lordship's dislike of my suggestion to intrust the temporary protection of our missionaries to the Russian Consulate, and I am bound to admit, on a review of all the circumstances, that this proposal was open to grave objections.

I transmit herewith copies of my last letter on the subject to the Valiahd, and of a message given by His Imperial Highness to Mr. Stevens, who is acting for Mr. Wratislaw at Tabreez. I think it probable that I shall ultimately succeed, especially after Mr. Wratislaw's return, in forcing His Imperial Highness to take energetic measures against the Kurds and arrest Sayed Ghaffar's accomplices; but the process may be long and troublesome. As your Lordship will see from the inclosed telegram, some of the Kurdish Chiefs are already beginning to be nervous, and if the Persian officials will only show a little vigour, instead of being bribed into procrastinating tactics, may themselves surrender the criminals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Valiahd.

Gulahek, le 3 Août, 1904.

Monseigneur,

J'AI été hier chez son Altesse le Vazir Azam avec le Chargé d'Affaires des États-Unis pour discuter l'affaire des assassinats d'Urmi.

Le point de vue auquel se place son Altesse paraît être que le départ de Mr. Wratislaw d'Urmi fera croire aux coupables que les trois Gouvernements ont renoncé à les poursuivre, et que cette conviction, en endormant leurs soupçons, rendra plus facile leur livraison à la justice.

Mon point de vue, et celui de mon collègue d'Amérique, est que cette idée pourra, au contraire, en enhardissant les Kurdes et en augmentant leur mépris pour les Gouvernements de Perse, d'Angleterre, et des États-Unis, les pousser à des nouvelles violences vis-à-vis des missionnaires, et de leurs protégés, et qu'avant que l'on ne puisse arrêter les complices de Seyed Ghaffar, nous risquerons de nous trouver en présence de nouveaux outrages qui compliqueront davantage une situation grave et déjà menaçante.

C'est pour cela que nous avons insisté auprès de son Altesse le Vazir Azam sur l'éloignement préalable de Mirza Hussein Aga comme condition indispensable de la rentrée de Mr. Wratislaw, représentant des intérêts Anglais et Américains à Tauris. Cet éloignement nous a été d'ailleurs promis par son Excellence Mouchir-ed-Dowleh il y a plus de deux mois.

Je désire vivement que Mr. Wratislaw puisse retourner le plus vite possible à Tauris, car je suis persuadé que les explications qu'il pourra fournir à votre Altesse Impériale seront de la plus haute utilité à tous les points de vue; mais je ne puis, Monseigneur, vous cacher ma crainte que ce retour, mal compris par les éléments ignorants et turbulents auxquels nous avons affaire, ne donne lieu à de regrettables incidents; et je n'ose point l'approuver tant que le départ préalable du Mujtehed n'ait rassuré la population Chrétienne agitée, peut-être à tort, par le souvenir des méfaits dont elle a été tout récemment victime.

Je ne désespère pas encore à arriver avec son Altesse le Vazir Azam à une formule ou à un moyen de transaction de nature à concilier les méthodes opposées par lesquelles nous travaillons de part et d'autre à atteindre un but commun, mais je pense que ce but serait plus rapidement et sûrement atteint si le départ du Mujtehed précédait de quelques jours la rentrée de Mr. Wratislaw à Tauris.

Il me semble que sans un ordre catégorique de bannissement, il ne serait point impossible de trouver un prétexte pour faire venir le Mujtehed à Téhéran ou à Tauris, quitte à lui permettre de retourner à Urmi quand les esprits se seront un peu calmés. Si j'ai bien compris les vues de votre Altesse Impériale, telles qu'elles m'ont été rapportées par Mr. Stevens, elle aurait été aussi de cet avis

Une pareille démarche pourrait être peut-être représentée aux Kurdes comme une satisfaction donnée aux deux Gouvernements d'Angleterre et d'Amérique, et comme terminant momentanément la crise aiguë que nous traversons à l'heure qu'il est. Le plan préconisé par le Gouvernement Persan de tranquilliser les Kurdes, afin de pouvoir plus facilement frapper les coupables, pourrait ensuite être mis en exécution.

Je me flatte de l'espoir de pouvoir venir le mois prochain à Tauris afin d'y présenter mes hommages à votre Altesse Impériale. La réalisation de ce projet, longtemps caressé et constamment ajourné, me sera d'autant plus agréable si je suis à même de la remercier, à l'occasion de ma visite à la capitale de l'Azerbaijan, pour le réglement définitif de la question épineuse soulevée par les tristes incidents qui nous occupent.

Je profite, &c.
(Signé) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21

Mr. Stevens to Sir A. Hardinge.

(Telegraphic.) *Tabreez, August* 11, 1904.

VALIAHD has asked me to telegraph to you his sincere thanks for your telegram and for the assistance you are giving him in view of settlement of Urmi business. He assures you that as soon as Jaffar Agha, of Salmast, who is now besieged, has been punished, Seifid Mamalek will proceed to Urmi to deal with Kurds. His Highness assures you that all possible haste will be applied to bring matters to a close soon to your Excellency's entire satisfaction.

(Posted to Urumiah.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 21.

Mr. Wratislaw to Sir A. Hardinge.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Urumiah, August* 10, 1904.

A DEPUTATION has been sent by the Kurds to the Turkish Sheikh Sadik, begging for permission to emigrate to his country temporarily. They have also made advances in the same sense to Piru, another Turkish Chief. They appear to be much alarmed at the expedition against the Salmas Kurds.

(Confidential.)

I was visited last night by a second (or secondary) Chief, who informed me that he, and probably half the tribe, would refuse to join in resisting an expedition, if one were sent. He gave me the names of five Kurds who joined the Seyed in the commission of the murder. Of these, four coincide with those on our list.

No. 22.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 148.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, August* 15, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my despatch No. 130 of the 18th July, that the Mushir-ed-Dowleh informed me about a fortnight ago that he had submitted my proposals for connecting Henjam by telegraph with Bandar Abbas to the Shah, who did not regard them as at present desirable.

I told his Excellency, and repeated it to-day to the Prime Minister, that I could not send such a reply to your Lordship or to the Government of India, and that it would only be common courtesy for the Persian Government to assign a reason for rejecting a proposal made by us in the interest of British trade which would at the same time be advantageous to Persia. In the case of the Seistan connection I had been informed that a pledge given to Russia stood in the way. Was I to understand

that a similar pledge prevented the Persian Government from sanctioning the further extension of the Indo-European telegraph system in the Gulf, and that the rumours current some years ago of secret arrangements between Persia and Russia in respect of Bandar Abbas were not as devoid of foundation as I had personally believed them to be? It was only on some assumption of this kind that the reply of the Persian Government could be explained, as objections on principle to the telegraph, which might be intelligible in the case of such a Ruler as the Dalai Lama of Thibet, could not be seriously attributed to an enlightened monarch like the Shah, who was the Sovereign of a civilized State.

The Ain-ed-Dowleh said that he was personally in favour of the extension, and had recommended it to His Majesty. He did not know why the Shah was against it, but he could assure me that there was no understanding with Russia on the subject such as that which had prevented compliance with our wishes in the matter of the Seistan connection.

I observed that in the case of the Central Persian line the objections made by the Shah on the ground that such incidents as the Graves murder might recur and occasion trouble to the Persian authorities had been surmounted by the arguments of the Atabeg-i-Azam. It seemed to me that His Highness, who, as a near relative of the Shah, must carry greater weight than the Atabeg with His Majesty, should be able to prevail on him more easily to reconsider his opposition to the present much less ambitious project.

The Ain-ed-Dowleh said that his system was different from his predecessor's. He never attempted to force his master's hand or press him to take a course which he saw he disliked. If, however, I would write a fresh note to the Persian Government, pointing out that under the Convention of 1868 the British Government was entitled to extend the line from Jask to a point short of Bandar Abbas, he would be in a position to bring the matter again before His Majesty.

I am preparing a communication to this effect, and I do not despair of attaining, by dint of perseverance, the result desired by the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 23.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 149. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, August* 16, 1904.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 51 of the 11th instant, in which you inform me that His Majesty's Government are prepared to complete the loan of April 1903 on the original securities, because they understand that, the Caspian Fisheries and Posts and Telegraphs being already exhausted, the sole security would, in fact, be the Southern Customs. Your Lordship also draws my attention to the possibility of an increase in the postal and telegraphic revenue, which might diminish the proportion of the new loan secured on the customs.

I think I ought to explain exactly the present position and amount of these various securities, so far as I have been able to ascertain them, in order to avoid all possibility of misunderstanding owing to any unintentionally loose expressions which may have been employed by me. I would premise that the figures come mainly from M. Naus, and resemble most Persian figures in that they cannot be verified by any statistical publication.

The interest and sinking fund on the loan of 200,000*l.* made in April 1903 will, if M. Naus' proposals for its repayment in equal annuities extending over a term of twenty years are accepted, be 5 per cent. interest plus 3 per cent. sinking fund, *i.e.*, 8 per cent. per annum, or about 16,000*l.* a-year, and on the completed loan of 300,000*l.*, or rather on its present capital of 290,000*l.*, will be about 24,000*l.* a-year for twenty years.

The Caspian Fisheries, which have hitherto yielded 20,000*l.* a-year, have ceased to be a real guarantee, nor would any banker now lend money on their security, since, under the new commercial régime as between Persia and Russia, the Russian Government can impose, and has intimated its intention of imposing, upon Persian fish the duties authorized by the Russian general Tariff instead of the old 5 per cent. *ad valorem*

NOTE.—I have taken for convenience the £ at 5 tomans.

duty, in order to develop its own fishing industries on the Russian coasts of the Caspian. The result of this measure, if carried out, which it has not yet been, except for a brief period last year when its execution was deferred in consequence of the representations of the Atabeg-i-Azam, will be to put an end for a considerable period to the revenue derived by the Persian Government from these royalties, and to necessitate the creation of a new fishing industry for the supply of Persian markets alone, which will be a slow and very uncertain process largely owing to the difficulties of transport between the Caspian coasts and inland towns. For this year, moreover, and for the two following years the fisheries have already been discounted to their concessionnaire by the Atabeg-i-Azam, a circumstance which was not known to M. Naus when the loan of last year was made on them as first security, so that no revenue whatever is at present obtainable from them, and the Persian Government have been obliged to pay this year's interest to us out of customs receipts alone.

The posts bring in a revenue after payment of all expenses of 6,000*l.* a-year. The telegraph revenue varies, as it represents the sum paid to the State by the Minister of Telegraphs, his Excellency the Mukhber-ed-Dowleh, who farms the telegraphs for a fixed annual amount, and has to make a new bargain every year. Last year the Mukhber paid 6,000*l.* to the Atabeg-i-Azam on this account, but the Ain-ed-Dowleh, who is not so well disposed towards him, this year raised the price demanded of him to 15,000*l.* From this amount must, however, be deducted the charges which the Mukhber-ed-Dowleh as farmer is entitled to make for repairs and upkeep, and which for the last few years represented an average of 5,000*l.* a-year. The payment made to the Persian Government from the Posts and Telegraphs has thus risen from 12,000*l.* last year to 21,000*l.* this, or, allowing for the charges above mentioned, which fall upon the Crown, from 7,000*l.* to 17,000*l.* a-year. To recoup himself for the increased price paid for his farm, the Minister of Telegraphs may however be expected to send in a proportionately larger bill for repairs and upkeep, which will provide a margin for his own personal profits, so that the State will have to repay in one way something of what it has gained in another. It must also be borne in mind that of the sum above mentioned the Postal revenue of 6,000*l.* is the only portion which can be relied upon to be forthcoming for the payment of interest at a fixed date, the Telegraph revenue being always liable, like those paid by farmers, to delays, arrears, and reductions obtained by private influence. As a matter of fact, none of the interest paid to us this year has come out of either Postal or Telegraphic revenue.

If the system of farming the Telegraphs were abandoned the State would eventually obtain an increased revenue, but during the first few years of the new system its revenue would be diminished by the initial expenditure necessary in order to organize the service properly. M. Naus, who would, I believe, like to get the Telegraphs as well as the Posts into his hands, tells me that with the European administration which would be necessary to work them satisfactorily the net profits would for a good many years fall short of the sum now paid by the Mukhber-ed-Dowleh.

Estimating, however, the future joint revenues of the Posts and Telegraphs at 16,000*l.* to 17,000*l.* a-year, which may now be taken as a rough, if variable, figure, this sum would cover the interest and sinking fund of the loan of 200,000*l.* made by us in April 1903.

The 8,000*l.* a-year which would represent the interest and sinking fund for twenty years on the remaining 100,000*l.* would, in view of the fact that the Caspian royalties are not available for three years, and are threatened after that with total or partial destruction, almost of necessity have to come out of the customs receipts, and, indeed, the whole sum of 24,000*l.* due on the completed loan will probably, as a matter of fact, continue to be paid out of that source of revenue. The Southern Customs, exclusive of those of Arabistan, brought in last year a total revenue of 200,000*l.*

I am anxious, however, to make it clear to your Lordship that, while we should be practically paid out of customs revenue, it is theoretically conceivable that we might be paid entirely, or almost entirely, out of the proceeds of the fisheries (suppose the Russians waive their right to impose duties on them), out of the Postal and Telegraph revenues, or M. D'Arcy's oil royalties, should these become lucrative, or even out of the proceeds of the Maliat, if the land tax under the new reform scheme were to yield a sufficient surplus. Thus the interest due to Russia is, as I had the honour to explain in my despatch No. 133, often paid in part out of receipts on which the Russian Bank have no lien, such as those of the customs of the Gulf. The interest on both debts is in fact always liable to be paid out of such sources of general revenue as are most handy at the particular moment when it falls due, the special securities mentioned being only ear-marked with a view to default.

If, therefore, your Lordship wishes to make absolutely sure that the debt on the

remaining 100,000*l.* shall be paid out of the receipts of the Southern Customs rather than out of any other source of revenue, a stipulation to that effect would have to be inserted in the contract. The requirements of such a stipulation would render the negotiations more difficult, and I am not sure that its practical advantage would be great. The real value of the inscription of the Southern Customs as our ultimate guarantee is that we have a certain and tangible asset, of political interest to ourselves, on which we can easily foreclose in case of default. But until default we are not, I imagine, entitled to require that our interest, so long as it is paid regularly, shall be proved to have been derived by our debtor from one source of his general revenue rather than another. I do not know if I have made myself plain; what I would respectfully desire to emphasize is the distinction between the money paid and the guarantees on which its payment is secured, and the fact that the only certain sources of revenue of which M. Naus is now able to dispose in order to provide the interest and sinking fund on the completed loan are the sum of 6,000*l.*, representing the receipts which he draws on account of the Posts administered by him, and that of 18,000*l.* which he will have to make up out of his customs receipts.

I inclose for convenience of reference a tabular statement showing the amount of the various securities and distinguishing between those which are permanent and certain, and those which are so fluctuating and uncertain as to be considered unreliable or exhausted for purposes of an advance or loan on business lines.

The Agreement which will be signed, if the completion of the loan on the original securities is, after these explanations, assented to by your Lordship, is the one of which I had the honour to inclose a draft in my despatch No. 133 of the 19th ultimo. For the present I have confined myself to informing M. Naus, confidentially, that I am hopeful though not absolutely certain that his draft will be accepted by your Lordship, but that until he is authorized to make me a definite proposal on the part of the Ain-ed-Dowleh, I am not in a position to give him a definite reply. He, himself, is anxious to complete the transaction if he possibly can before he goes on two months' leave a fortnight hence, and believes he can induce the Ain-ed-Dowleh to subscribe the draft Agreement proposed by him.

It may be regarded as almost certain that the Shah, if he lives through the winter, will insist on a European tour in the spring, and that the Ain-ed-Dowleh will have to choose between finding the money required for this purpose or resigning. Dr. Schneider tells me that His Highness has agreed to the tour in principle, but wishes in order to diminish its unpopularity that it should be preceded by a visit to Meshed, which it is the duty of every Shah once in his reign to dust, as *ex officio* Chief Sweeper of Imam Reza's sanctuary, the Saint's shrine with a jewelled broom. The Ain-ed-Dowleh, no doubt, hopes that the Meshed journey if spun out long enough may take the place of the more costly and politically objectionable visit to Europe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Explanations respecting Securities for Completion of Persian Loan.

	Amount.	Remarks.
	£	
Caspian Fisheries	20,000	Non-existent for three years, having been discounted to concessionnaire, after that uncertain, owing to new, Russian tariff.
Posts	6,000	Certain.
Telegraphs—		
Last year	1,000	Variable and farmed, *i.e.* uncertain.
This year (after deduction of annual average expenses)	11,000	
Southern Customs—		
Last year	200,000	Certain.
Normally about	150,000	
Total	187,000	
Certain sums	156,000	
Annual interest and sinking fund	24,000	

No. 24.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 150.)

My Lord, *Gulahek, August* 16, 1904.

THE domestic politics of Tehran have been very quiet for the past few weeks, and though there have been rumours that the Shah had telegraphed to the Atabeg-i-Azam to return to Persia, the seclusion in which His Majesty has until lately lived, owing to the cholera epidemic, has checked the constant flow of intrigue which constitutes the life of this Court. There is, therefore, no necessity for me to add to the usual monthly summary which I have the honour to inclose herewith a special despatch about the internal situation in Persia.

In connection with the action taken by the Sultan, as reported in the summary, towards the Ulema of Irak Arabi, I may state that the Mujtehed Seyyed Abu Taleb Zenjani, whom I have occasionally mentioned to your Lordship as credited with being an agent of Yildiz Kiosk among the Persian clergy, told me lately that as soon as the hot weather was over he was starting on a tour from Meshed which would comprise Askhabad, Merv, Bokhara, Samarcand, Taskhend, and Khiva.

The Seyyid is an intelligent lover of travel, and his tour may be one of curiosity only, but it would not surprise me if his object was to test, for the Sultan's information, the effect of the Russian reverses in Manchuria upon the Mussulman population of Central Asia, and his movements will, I should think, in any case be very carefully watched by the Russians.

The Ain-ed-Dowleh has acquiesced in the return to Irak Arabi of Sheikh Abdul Ali Herati, with whose antecedents and proceedings there your Lordship is familiar, provided that the Sheikh does not re-enter Persia.

I should add to the summary that the six sowars sent from India as a Consular guard for Tabriz have arrived at Gulahek, and the new guard for Meshed at the latter place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Monthly Summary.

Bushire.

THE Sheikh of Shargah, as Head of the Joasim Arabs, was instructed to take the necessary measures for re-hoisting the pirate Chief's flag on the islands of Tanb and Abumusa. With the assistance of His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" this was done about the 20th June, and two men were stationed on each island to guard the flags permanently.

His Majesty's Resident reports that the Belgian Customs Administration is gradually acquiring very large control over all local affairs. Many officials, including the Governor, are said to receive their salaries through them; they energetically protect their employés, and the general impression is that it is as well to be friendly with them.

Seistan.

An incident has arisen with the Customs Department over a certain Khamber. This man used to give himself out as an Afghan, and for some months hung around the Mission camp, sometimes trying to induce the Mission bunniahs to sell him articles from the Mission shop (imported duty-free for the exclusive use of members of the Mission), and sometimes during the boycotts of the Mission, levying blackmail from natives

bringing provisions into the camp. He had been ejected several times with violence. In June, after trying to buy something from the Mission shop, he was summarily treated, whereupon he produced a Customs badge and declared himself a servant of that Administration.

The matter has been taken up by M. Molitor in Seistan and by M. Naus in Tehran, who consider that the dignity of the Customs Department requires some satisfaction for this slight. Sir A. Hardinge has pointed out to M. Naus the criminal character of Khamber's proceedings in endeavouring to induce members of the Mission to commit acts of contraband.

His Excellency having received the full "dossier" from Seistan, announced his intention of formulating an official protest on the subject, but as this is now much overdue, it is possible that he may have reconsidered his decision.

Possibly Khamber is an "agent provocateur," endeavouring to prove the existence of contraband trade through the Mission bunniahs, about which there was much controversy last spring.

Orders have recently been issued for the re-assessment of the land of all Mullahs and Seyyids of Seistan, which have hitherto been exempt from land tax. They have been ordered to produce proof of their rights to exemption. As many hold land which has been handed down from generation to generation without question, it will be hard for them to produce their proofs. They have complained loudly to Tehran.

Mr. Keyes has worked his way up as far as Duroh on the Afghan frontier, east of Birjand, surveying. He has mapped out over 1,000 square miles of country.

Abdul Kerim, the agent of the Russian Bank, is still hankering after the Seistan revenue grain. He applied for it officially a short time ago, but was refused by the local Government on the ground of instructions received some time back from Meshed. He has purchased a considerable quantity privately.

The Karguzar has sent in his resignation. He has been consistently anti-British.

Meshed.

The Herat Agent reports that twenty-four guns and enough rifles to arm four regiments have been received at Herat from Kabul. The latter are being distributed to the Kabul and Kandahari regiments posted there. M. Castaigne has taken over Treasury work in connection with the new fiscal reforms. At present he merely receives money and does not collect revenue, but he himself considers his new duties merely as "the thin edge of the wedge."

Aga Fazel Mameghani left on the 15th July. The disturbances which were expected during his visit were all nipped in the bud by the Governor-General, and came to nothing.

A number of Hindoos have arrived from Bokhara, where the Russians view them with much suspicion, and do not make life too pleasant for them.

M. d'Hoedt is to replace M. Lejeune at Kuchan. The latter is being transferred to Kerman.

Shiraz.

The Shua-es-Sultaneh entered the city officially on the 30th June, and the next fortnight was spent in dividing spoils and appointments among his parasites. But on the appearance of cholera in the middle of July, his Highness, his suite, all the Notables of Shiraz, and many of the inhabitants took to flight, and business of every kind was paralyzed. The cholera epidemic has been reported on in a separate despatch.

Owing, perhaps, to the disorganization of the machinery of government by the cholera, much lawlessness has prevailed in Fars. Robberies and murders have been perpetrated up to the very walls of the town.

Resht.

The Governor-General has fled from cholera into the country.

Trade is at a standstill, owing partly to the war and partly to cholera. The cocoon harvest has been a failure this year owing to bad weather. Its importance may be gauged from the fact that last year's exports of silk amounted to 400,000*l*. The receipts of the

Caspian Customs are being unfavourably affected by the depression. The rice crop has also proved a failure owing to the prolonged drought.

M. Simais, of the Customs Department, has, as in other parts of Persia, assumed the duties of Treasurer, remitting to Tehran moneys—the difference between the taxes collected and the amount of Government expenditure. He remitted 9,500 tomans on the 7th July, and a similar sum on the 21st July.

Kum.

Cholera statistics:—

	Deaths.
Week ending July 23 ..	75
" July 30 ..	170
" August 6	77
" August 13	25

Ispahan.

The Kuhgelus, a Fars tribe, have been raiding and robbing on the Bakhtiari road. The Bakhtiari Khans are furious, and disavow all responsibility. Muleteers, in consequence of this, threaten to refuse to travel along the road.

The sudden departure from Tehran of Bahram Mirza, the Zil-es-Sultan's favourite son, was reported in last month's summary. The Zil was touched at his son's fear of cholera, and did not receive him ill after all. His Highness himself is much afraid of it, and remains in the country, seeing as few people as possible.

Mirza Baghir Khan, the Zil-es-Sultan's Moonshi Bashi, having started some schools in Ispahan, was anxious to diminish the competition caused to him by the Church Mission schools. He accordingly persuaded Bishop Stuart that Aga Nejefi was tyrannizing his pupils and preventing them from attending. The Bishop thereupon requested His Majesty's Minister to have this interference stopped by action at Tehran. Meanwhile Baghir Khan's friends in Tehran had prepared the ground for him, and the result of representations to the Ain-ed-Dowleh was a reply from his Highness stating that it could no longer be allowed that Mohammedan pupils should receive instruction in schools from Christian priests, and that orders in this sense had been sent to Ispahan. As in the Church Missionary schools only one clergyman gives classes regularly, and the Bishop himself only takes an occasional class, it has been thought advisable, rather than raise the whole question by dragging in the American and French Missionary schools in Tehran and elsewhere into the controversy, to acquiesce in the new order of things for the present, and draw the teachers in classes attended by Mohammedan pupils from the lay members of the Mission only. The matter will most likely be forgotten soon, and the Missionaries will be able to resume their classes as is most convenient to them without anything being said.

Tehran.

Cholera.—The cholera epidemic, reported upon in a separate despatch, which last month formed the general topic of conversation, has so far decreased in Tehran and the suburbs that less attention is paid to it. The panic which at first supervened has greatly subsided, and large numbers of people who had fled to the hills and adjoining country are returning to town.

War News.—The war news from the Far East, which for a time had ceased to interest the public, is now again eagerly discussed, and the three leading local newspapers—"Iran and Ettela," "Suraya," and "Terbiet"—devote a good deal of their space to this subject. The first, which is the official gazette, produces translations of Reuter's telegrams, which are passed on to the editor by the Shah's orders, and translate announcements of Russian defeats unsparingly. The second went so far as to announce in its last issue, "from a European source of undoubted reliability," that the Japanese forces besieging Port Arthur had, after a valiant and brilliant assault, finally captured the fortress. The third, which is sometimes inspired indirectly by the Legation, and receives Reuter's telegrams, publishes translations of reliable war news, and its articles are couched in more sober language. The Russian news still circulates, but the Persian translation has a very meagre circulation.

Priesthood.—The priesthood have found the cholera epidemic a fruitful source for their peculative tendencies, and murmurs come from many sides of their wholesale

robberies of the estates of deceased persons. The widows and orphans, left to the tender mercies of the Chief Mujtcheds, Seyed Ali Akber Tafrishi, Seyed Abdullah, and Haji Sheikh Fazlullah, are being despoiled in the name of the Prophet.

Mamakani.—Fazil Mamakani, the Chief Priest of Nejef, who, as reported at the time, passed through Shah Abdul Azim on his way to the shrine of Imam Reza at Meshed, and whose following of over 1,000 halt, lame, and blind beggars it is thought brought the present epidemic with them along the pilgrim route from the "Attabat," returned to Shah Abdul Azim last week on his way back to Nejef, and it is reported that his wife has succumbed to the epidemic, as well as over twenty persons of his following.

Arfa'-ed-Dowleh.—The Persian Ambassador at Constantinople, Prince Arfa'-ed-Dowleh, known as "Danieh," has now returned to Tehran, in obedience to the summons of His Imperial Majesty the Shah. He followed up the plea which he originally advanced to evade obeying the summons, which, as reported at the time, was to the effect that important engagements connected with his duties to the civilized world, as a member of The Hague Peace Conference, compelled his presence in Europe, by composing some verses dwelling upon the advantages of universal peace, which were published in the Tehran official gazette.

Seif-ul-Mulk.—The only son of his Highness the Sepahsalar, Minister for War, and nephew of the Grand Vizier, who has the reputation of being rather a wild youth, has lately attracted attention by maltreating a Mujtehed, Seyed Hashem, who ventured to remonstrate with him concerning unusually violent and disgraceful behaviour on his part. A number of students, however, took the Seyed's part, and the Seif-ul-Mulk was severely beaten by a mob of them in the street. The Grand Vizier, who heard of the incident, has spoken strongly to his brother, the Sepahsalar, regarding his son's behaviour, but this is not the first, and probably will not be the last, of his exploits.

Municipality.—The Etemad-es-Sultaneh has been appointed to succeed the late Mukhtar-es-Sultaneh, whose personal influence and energy made him the leader of the municipal Administration of Tehran, and who was looked upon, especially during the first days of the cholera outbreak, of which he himself fell a victim, as virtually Governor of the town. His successor is, however, of less personal influence, and takes a back seat with his colleagues in the Municipal Council, which is composed of Haji Mushir Leshker (the Vezir of the Governor of the town, his Highness the Ain-ed-Dowleh), the Said-es-Sultaneh (Chief of Police), and the Etemad-es-Sultaneh (Chief of Municipality), and daily councils are held by the triumvirate, who, however, refer their difficulties to the Grand Vizier.

A day or two ago a question arose in connection with a Mussulman employé of the Russian Bank, who shot another Mussulman by accident. In consequence of the statement made by the wounded man, the Council reported their difficulty to the Grand Vizier, explaining that, as the accused was "connected with the Russians," action against him was difficult, and begging for instructions. The Grand Vizier replied, "Inform the Foreign Office, and let any one necessary for the inquiry be sent for;" and added, on a separate sheet, marked confidential, "What does 'connected with the Russians' mean? If the Russians themselves commit a fault send and arrest them. Those times have passed." This incident, trivial in itself, indicates the Grand Vizier's frame of mind in regard to the Russians, but points more especially to his ignorance of international relations and the Treaty rights of foreigners in his country.

His Imperial Highness Salar-ed-Dowleh.—This Prince, who fled to Arabistan in April last and returned two months later, has been forgiven by His Imperial Majesty the Shah, and an allowance of 13,000 tomans (2,600*l.*) a-year is being allowed to him, and he has the promise of the Governorship of Khorassan next year. His Imperial Highness expressed a desire to see Sir Arthur Hardinge, to whom, at their interview early in August, he described the events which led up to his flight and subsequent return. It may be of interest to record a statement which he made to the Minister on that occasion to the effect that when in Arabistan he had asked the Sultan's permission to proceed to and reside at Kerbela, but that the Sultan replied that if the Prince entered Turkey he would prefer to have him at his side at Constantinople.

"Olema," of Nejef.—The high priests at the "Atabat" have lately again agitated for the suppression of the public sale of wine in Persia, and especially in Tehran, where a number of Armenians keep public taverns. The Persian Government has taken steps to prevent its Armenian subjects from carrying on this trade, and the Persian Foreign Office has issued a circular to the foreign Missions asking for similar steps to be taken in regard to foreign subjects. At the same time it is reported that the Sultan of Turkey has asked the "Olema," at the request of the Russian and Persian Embassies, to cease

interfering in the internal politics of Persia and of Russia, the "Olema" having lately been discussing the question of organizing and supporting a rising against Russia in the Caucasus.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Russian Military Intelligence for week ending July 9, 1904.

(Secret.)

NOTHING of any importance.

(Signed) C. F. MINCHIN, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

Russian Military Intelligence for week ending July 16, 1904.

Krasnovodsk Reports.

June 25.—300 infantry, bearing the number 16 p K, arrived in Krasnovodsk from Russia.

June 28.—700 infantry, bearing the number 17 p K, arrived.

There are very large quantities of ammunition lying in Krasnovodsk which have not yet been removed.

The Russians, to raise money, have started various innovations, such as fining people for the dirtiness of their houses, &c. Fines from 100 to 700 roubles have been inflicted.

Ashkabad Reports.

July 2.—There are only about 200 soldiers in Ashkabad, who are relieved every week from Ak Tapa.*

The arms taken away from the Turkomans have not yet been returned to them.

There are about 1,000 soldiers in Ashkabad and Ak Tapa together. They bear the numbers 2, 3, 13, 23, 33.

Merv Reports.

July 2.—2 waggons containing engine wheels, &c., and 6 waggons of railway material passed from Ashkabad direction towards Charjui.

July 4.—6 waggons, containing iron rails, and 15 containing stones, passed in same direction.

The strength of the garrison here is about 300 infantry, but no artillery.

Sarakhs Reports.

July 7.—During the last week 40 camel loads of supplies and 3 camel loads of stores and ammunition were dispatched from Sarakhs to Pul-i-Khetun.

5 Cossacks and 4 Turkoman Sowars arrived here from Sheikh Junaid and went on to Tajend; and 15 Cossacks and 9 Turkoman Sowars arrived from Tajend way and went on in the Ak Robat direction, accompanied by an officer from Sarakhs.

Charjui Reports.

June 30.—The Russians have lately sent 5 or 6 Ozbak spies to Maimena and Ardkui to ascertain what is going on there. These spies have been given 100 roubles a-month each.

It is said here that the Russians have suffered a heavy defeat in Manchuria.

* A camp west of Ashkabad, near Firoza.

Patakisar Reports.

June 27.—There is no fresh news except that the Russian troops are very vigilant along the river.

Several officers, two of whom were of high rank, have left for Manchuria to fight the Japanese.

On the 26th June a steamer arrived, and, after discharging ammunition and stores, left again.

As for the soldiers in garrison here, those bearing the numbers 14, 15, and 16 are much more numerous than those bearing numbers 4 and 13.

By this steamer 20 infantry, bearing the number 17, arrived here.

Note.—This does not tally with his report of the 8th June, *vide* Diary No. 75, unless the number 13 above is a mistake for 17.

(Signed) C. F. MINCHIN, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

Russian Military Movements in Trans-Caspia.

Krasnovodsk Reports.

July 3.—It is reported that there is trouble in Caucasia with the Daghistanis, and that several of the Daghistani Chiefs have been summoned to Tiflis and imprisoned there. Also that 40 battalions of Russian troops have arrived in Baku, and 20 more are expected.

The mills in Caucasia have been ordered to get ready 1,000,000 kharwars (a kharwar equals 650 lbs.) of flour.

Ashkabad Reports.

July 12.—About the 1st July, 2 batches of labourers, each numbering 400, from the frontier villages on the Persian frontier, were sent by rail in the direction of Bokhara. The men are to be given 25 roubles a-month each.

The trains nowadays carry quantities of iron sheets, sleepers, and rails for a railroad.

During the last two weeks very few soldiers have passed through Ashkabad, nor has any large quantity of stores arrived from Krasnovodsk. There is no activity here at present as regards movements of troops.

Merv Reports.

July 7.—4 rail waggon loads of rails passed, going east.

July 10.—100 infantry passed through, going east.

July 13.—The strength of the Merv garrison is—

	Men.
Infantry (about)	400
Cossacks	50

No guns or artillerymen.

Sarakhs Reports.

July 11.—6 officers, accompanied by 2 Cossacks and 3 Turkomans, arrived in Sarakhs on the 9th, and left to-day for Sheikh Junaid.

July 14.—5 Cossacks and 1 Turkoman arrived in Sarakhs from the Ak Robat direction.

*Charjui Reports.**

July 2.—50 infantry passed through by rail, going east.

July 5.—300 infantry and 3 officers passed through, going east.

* I am very doubtful of this man's reports.

Patakisar Reports.

July 7.—A Sart, of Bokhara, was recently sent by the Russians here to Masar-i-Sharif, with a letter for the Afghan authorities there. The latter imprisoned him pending orders about him from Kabul. On the 5th July he returned to Patakisar. It is said orders came from Kabul to release him, and give him a khillat of 500 rupees, and send him back with a reply to the Russian General's letter.

The report about the construction of the railway line is correct (*vide* Patakisar report of the 16th June, Diary No. 77). The work has been begun. The line will run as follows: Germana, Karshi, Kerki, Kilif, Patakisar.

(Signed) C. F. MINCHIN, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General and Agent of the Government of India in Khorassan.

Russian Military Movements in Trans-Caspia.

Meshed Reports.

July 31.—With reference to Krasnovodsk reports of the 3rd July, I hear from three separate sources that a large number of troops (one report says 44,000) have arrived at Baku.

A trader, recently returned from Kerki, reports that the number of troops there and in other frontier garrisons have been reduced lately by 75 per cent. It is not known where the troops have been sent to.

Karez Reports.

July 18.—Turkomans, recently come from Panjdeh, report that there are few Russian troops now in Sheikh Junaid; also that before this supplies and stores used to be sent to Sheikh Junaid, but that now the same supplies and stores are being sent back to Ashkabad.

Merv Reports.

July 13.—150 infantry passed through, going west.

July 15.—The Amir of Bokhara is said to have been asked by the Russians to supply 50,000 men to guard the frontier in place of Russian troops required elsewhere.

July 16.—The strength of the garrison is still about 300 infantry.

Sarakhs Reports.

July 17.—The Russian authorities have ordered the Turcomans to get camels ready as follows:—

	Camels.
From the tribe of Tika Khan	150
" " Manglai Khan	150
" " Urdu Khoja	100

These camels are required for dispatch to Seistan (*sic*).

July 19.—A large quantity of wheat has been got out from the Government storehouses, and is being cleaned and sent to be ground.

July 20.—The Russians are rejoiced to hear that 30,000 of the Japanese have been killed in a battle.

July 21.—The Russians contemplate imposing quarantine because of the cholera in Persia.

Charjui Reports.

July 15.—100 infantry arrived from Merv direction, and left by steamer for Kerki.

July 16.—A train full of sleepers passed, going east.

July 18.—50 infantry arrived here from the west. They are men of the Lesghian tribe from the Caucasus, and are Sunni Mahommedans.

July 19.—About 200 boxes of ammunition arrived from the west, and were dispatched by steamer to Kerki.

July 20.—80 infantry left here, going east.

(Signed) C. F. MINCHIN, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General and Agent of the Government of India in Khorassan.

No. 24*.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 152.)

My Lord, *Gulhek, August* 16, 1904.

I SAW M. Naus this afternoon and asked him if he had prepared the reply to my notes respecting quarantine in the Persian Gulf which, as reported in my despatch No. 143 of the 23rd ultimo, he had told me I should have in time for to-morrow's messenger.

His Excellency said that he could send it in, if I wished, but that as he could only say in it that he was acting by the orders of the Shah, and Grand Vizier, he feared that it would not be considered satisfactory and he suggested that it would be better, that he and I should both discuss the question to-morrow with the Ain-ed-Dowleh himself, and arrive if possible at a clear understanding with respect to it.

I agreed that, inasmuch as such an answer as he had foreshadowed would not get us any further and would, in fact, oblige me to address a strong protest to the Persian Government, it might be as well before I took this step that the conference he had suggested should first be tried, but I asked him to put it off till the day after to-morrow by when I should have sent off my gholam.

He is, I think, personally quite ready to accept my proposal that the Customs should, pending an exchange of views between our two Governments, be directed to abstain from all interference with the Indian quarantine doctors, but he demurred to my view that the responsibilities of the latter for the maintenance of maritime quarantine included supervision of the road entering Bushire from the north. I said that Bushire being on a peninsular the sanitary supervision of the port included not only that of the shores of the peninsular, but that of the neck of land or isthmus separating it from the mainland, and that the two could not conveniently be divided.

Even if we arrive at a provisional *modus vivendi*, which I hope we shall, the Persian Government are sure to demand that they should have a right to issue direct instructions to the Indian quarantine doctors, whom they pay, just as they do to their Russian Cossack officers, and that the old practice by which such instructions whenever sent were addressed through the Legation and British Residency, should be discontinued as cumbrous and inconsistent with the dignity of an independent Government. The question therefore arises, if we admit the justice of this contention on their part, what the procedure and channel should be. It is clearly undesirable that it should be the Ministry of Customs. The Sanitary Council is also open to objections as in an international body of that sort experience has shown that we have to reckon with anti-British influences which might sometimes carry the day against us. Perhaps the best system would be that the orders of the Shah, whenever he gives any, should be telegraphed by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of the Sanitary Section of the Persian Foreign Office to the Residency surgeon direct (the Foreign Minister himself is of too high a rank to communicate directly with that officer) and that copies of these telegrams should be transmitted to me for my information. We cannot of course contend that the fact that we have lent Persia these doctors, deprives the Shah of all right to issue such orders respecting sanitary measures

in his own territory as are in accord with international Conventions, or that he can only do so through the medium of a foreign Legation. What we want to prevent are the encroachments of other local officials on the domain of our quarantine doctors in the Gulf ports, and especially those of the customs.

With reference to future arrangements, I believe it would strengthen our position if the Government of India would decide (1) itself to pay the salaries of the Indian doctors in the Gulf ports, and (2) to depute for these duties European rather than, as at present, native Indian assistant surgeons. I have seen something of the two doctors at Mohammerah and Lingah. The first, Dr. Francis, is an excellent public servant, and the Karguzar of Mohammerah, whom he cured of cholera, has just recommended him for a Persian decoration. But he is a Goanese or Eurasian of unusually sable hue, whose 10 or 15 annas in the rupee, if I may be pardoned for adopting a vulgar Indian simile, look as if they had partly been minted in Africa. The second, though a Mohammedan, is a typical Indian "Baboo" and I had at Lingah to take part in an inquiry about an assault of which he was a victim at the hands of a Persian officer, whose wife he refused to treat without prepayment, and in which he played a most undignified part. I have personally little sympathy with colour prejudices, but they do weigh with the Persian and European officials, and I am sure that our local quarantine doctors would have greater authority both with Persian, Belgian, and other foreign officials, if they were Englishmen instead of half-castes or pure natives.

The new Sanitary Council has held two meetings. At the first Dr. Schneider explained that it was merely an advisory body, and that the executive administration of all sanitary matters would be in the hands of M. Naus. I have the honour to inclose a complete list of the members of the Council. I have suggested to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh the desirability of including among their number Dr. Scott, the physician of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, whose presence at its meetings, Dr. Schneider agrees with me in thinking, would be useful.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 24*.

List of Members of the Health Council.

President: Dr. Schneider (French).

Vice-President: M. Lavers, Delegate of the Ministry of Posts and Customs (Belgian).

Members of the Council,—

His Excellency Mohtashem-es-Saltaneh, Delegate of the Foreign Office (Persian).
Mehendis Bashi, Delegate of the Ministry of the Interior (Persian).
Said-es-Saltaneh, Delegate of the Ministry of Police (Persian).
Etemad-es-Saltaneh, Delegate of the Municipal Committee nominated for Tehran (Persian).
Reza Kuli Khan, Delegate for the Ministry of Education (Persian).
Emin Zarb, Delegate of the Ministry of Commerce (Persian).

Shah's Physicians—

Dr. Lindley (English).
Hakim-ul-Mulk (Persian).
Alem-ed-Dowleh (Persian).
Nazam-el-Attaba (Persian).

M. Lecomte, Chemist (French).
Dr. Odling, British Delegate.
Dr. Loew, German Delegate.
Dr. Walter, Russian Delegate.

Dr. Wishard (American Mission), United States' Delegate.
Dr. Obermayer, Turkish Delegate.
Dr. Sadowsky, Doctor of the Cossack Brigade (Russian).
Dr. Scott, Indo-European Telegraph (English). Proposed by me as an additional member, and awaiting formal appointment by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

It will be observed that the Council consists of 20 members, if Dr. Scott is included. Of these 9 are Persians, 3 English, 2 Russians, 2 French, 1 German, 1 Belgian, 1 American, and 1 a German Representative of the Sublime Porte.

No. 25.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.

(No. 153. Secret.)

My Lord,

Gulahek, August 16, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an instructive Memorandum by Mr. Churchill on the working of the Secret Service and Political Intelligence Department of the Russian "Banque d'Escompte de Perse," with special reference to the negotiations carried on by M. Grube for the acquisition of the Telephone Concession mentioned by me in previous despatches.

I am inclined to think, from all I have gathered in other quarters, that the indiscriminate manner in which M. Grube has distributed the large secret service fund allowed him as Financial Agent by his Government has proved of somewhat doubtful advantage to Russian interests, and that the Persians, whom he pays so liberally, have as often as not taken his money and given him little or nothing in return for it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Memorandum.

MIRZA ALI ASGHER KHAN, an Afghan formerly in the employ of the Legation in the time of Sir H. Drummond Wolff, who used him in connection with the attempt to prevent the return of Ayub Khan to Afghanistan, and subsequently for many years employed as Munshi by the Imperial Bank of Persia, has been able to give me some information regarding the Secret Service system of the Russian Bank, which I embody in a Memorandum in accordance with your instructions.

Mirza Ali Asgher Khan became involved in debt while in the employ of the Imperial Bank, and, at the suggestion of certain persons in M. Grube's Secret Service, to whom he no doubt made promises of services in return, the Russian Bank consented to advance him the amount of his debts. M. Rabino, on discovering the arrangement, dismissed his employé, who threw himself on the hands of M. Grube, who, in turn, placed him temporarily on the staff of his Secret Service, which he had at first been intended to serve while still in the employ of the rival bank. It was during his experience in this new capacity that Mirza Ali Asgher Khan obtained an insight into M. Grube's methods, which he imparted to me to-day.

The Russian Bank's Intelligence Department had, during the last two or three years, increased its activity and scope by the addition of paid spies and informants, and had gradually turned into a highly organized Secret Service under the direction of a certain Bábi, named Mirza Azizullah, the son of a prominent Bábi agitator, who was executed in Tehran many years ago, together with many others, when an attempt was made to assassinate Nasr-ed-Deen Shah. The Bábi element, most useful for M. Grube's purpose, was in this manner introduced into the organization, and men of note such as Haji Sheikh-ur-Reis (the well-known Kajar priest), Haji Seyyah, the revolutionary intriguer, and his numerous friends, all of whom are credited with Bábi tendencies, were interested and cultivated. Spies in the service of the various Ministers were employed to report upon the Atabeg-i-Azam (subsequently upon the Ain-ed-Dowleh), the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, the Sepahsalar, M. Naus, and other men whose movements were of interest; they received regular salaries, and sent in their reports to Mirza Azizullah.

Large sums of money were distributed among the priesthood, including Seyed Abdullah, Seyed Ali Akber Tafrishi, and Naghib-us-Sádát (the head of the Seyeds). At one time, indeed, they went so far as to distribute, in order to make the Russian cause popular, as much as 100 tomans (20*l.*) a-month to the beggars of the town, a yearly feast was given to all who cared to attend, and hundreds of beggars availed themselves of the offer. In this manner M. Grube disposed of a sum of 40,000 roubles (about 4,000*l.*) a-year which was spent on Secret Service alone, until, owing to the war with Japan, the organization showed signs of decreased activity, and the supply of funds was so reduced that numbers of its informants ceased to supply news, and even some of the actual staff under Mirza Azizullah were told that their services were no longer necessary.

Mirza Ali Asgher Khan gave me an account of a significant interview which he had had with the Moayer-el-Mamalek concerning that gentleman's transfer of the Telephone Concession to the Russian Bank. Shortly after the operation had been concluded, which he described as the payment by M. Grube of 25,000 tomans (5,000*l.*) and the promise of shares in the undertaking to the same value, the Moayer-el-Mamalek had sent for him, and, thinking he was still in M. Grube's employ, which he had, however, left some time previously, intrusted him with a message to the effect that, if a communication was received from either the Grand Vizier or the Mushir-ed-Dowleh concerning their recent operation, M. Grube was to send it straight to him (the Moayer) and he would know how to deal with it.

Mirza Ali Asgher Khan was about to explain that he was not in a position to deliver the message when an envoy from the Grand Vizier was announced, who, without preamble or ceremony, stated that he was deputed to inform the Moayer-el-Mamalek that the Shah, who had heard of the sale of the Telephone Concession to the Russian Bank, was highly displeased, and had cancelled the concession. He was further instructed to obtain possession of the document itself, and would remain there until it was delivered up to him.

A stormy altercation followed, in which the Moayer-el-Mamalek used violent language, and shielded himself behind the Russian Bank, where, he said, the document had been deposited, and could not, therefore, be produced. The envoy finally retired to report the result of his mission to the Grand Vizier.

Mirza Ali Asgher Khan, though very bitter against M. Grube for having, as he thinks, wilfully ruined him by inducing him under false pretences to throw up his appointment under the Imperial Bank, seems to consider him a man of great ability and shrewdness, which, I fear, in his mind is the equivalent of deceit. He was under the impression that the head and front of Russian political activity in Tehran was represented by M. Grube and his Secret Service, while the Russian Legation, largely owing to the personal unpopularity of M. Vlassoff, counted for nothing.

(Signed) G. P. CHURCHILL.

Gulahek, August 16, 1904.

No. 26.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 21. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Gulahek, August* 15, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in continuation of my despatch No. 18, Commercial, of the 19th July, copies of correspondence which has passed between the Government of India, M. Naus, and myself on the subject of the penal clauses of the "Règlement Douanier."

I am in hopes that M. Naus' latest proposals may meet the views and wishes of the Government of India. The Russian "Règlement" is, I believe, actually signed, or on the point of being so.

His Majesty's Acting Consul in Seistan having called my attention to the inconvenience caused to Indian traders by there being only a second-class bureau at Kuh-i-malik-Siah, so that they have to make a long detour for certain indispensable customs formalities to Nasratabad, which, in the case of caravans going to Kerman and sometimes even to Meshed, was an expense and loss of time, I asked M. Naus unofficially if he would be willing to make Kuh-i-malik-Siah his first-class bureau for

Northern Beluchistan instead of Mirjawa. His Excellency said he saw at first sight no objection to the proposed alteration, and I am merely waiting for authority from Simla to request him officially to make it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Government of India to Sir A. Hardinge.

(Telegraphic.) P. *August* 6, 1904.

PROPOSED supplementary Declaration to the "Règlement Douanier" substitutes fine for confiscation not of goods themselves, but only of the means of transport. Sea Customs Act applies to the goods as well, and the distinction is important. We would be glad if you could obtain this modification. We have no other suggestions.

(Repeated to Secretary of State for India.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Sir A. Hardinge to M. Naus.

(Privée.)

Mon cher Ministre, *Getchissar, le* 8 *Août*, 1904.

JE viens de recevoir un télégramme du Gouvernement des Indes au sujet du Règlement Douanier, dont voici la traduction :—

"La clause que vous proposez remplace par une amende la seule confiscation des moyens de transport, et non point celles des marchandises elles-mêmes. La Loi Indienne vise ces dernières aussi bien que les moyens de transport, et la distinction nous paraît importante. Il serait à désirer que vous obtinssiez une modification dans ce sens dans l'accord supplémentaire dont il est question."

Auriez-vous de la difficulté à appliquer le régime Indien en ce qui concerne les marchandises aussi bien que les moyens de transport? Je n'ai point ici le texte du Règlement Indien, mais je m'imagine qu'il prévoit une amende égalant ou dépassant pour ce qui est de son maximum la valeur des marchandises. J'ai prié Mr. Lindsay de vous l'envoyer, pour que vous puissiez vous-même examiner le texte.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) A. H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 26.

M. Naus to Sir A. Hardinge.

Mon cher Ministre, *Le* 10 *Août*, 1904.

LE télégramme du Gouvernement des Indes, dont vous avez bien voulu me communiquer la teneur par votre lettre privée du 8 de ce mois, m'a beaucoup étonné.

En effet, le littéra 2 de l'Article 167 du Chapitre XVI du "Sea Customs Act" dispose comme suit :—

"2. If any goods be landed or shipped, or if any attempt be made to land or ship any goods, or if any goods be brought into any bay, river, creek, or arm of the sea for the purpose of being landed or shipped at any port or place which, at the date of such landing, shipment, attempt, or bringing, is not a port for the landing and shipment of goods, such goods shall be liable to confiscation."

C'est, par conséquent, à tort que le Gouvernement des Indes dit que la Loi Indienne remplace par une amende aussi bien la confiscation des marchandises que celle des moyens de transport.

Je dois croire que l'auteur du télégramme a confondu entre la pratique habituelle et le droit strict que la loi donne aux autorités Douanières. En effet, dans la plupart

des cas, lorsque la Douane a prononcé la confiscation de marchandises pour un fait de fraude, elle consent transactionnellement à les rétrocéder aux intéressés moyennant le paiement de la valeur de ces marchandises, ou même moyennant une somme moindre si l'Administration estime qu'il est possible d'user d''ndulgence.

En fait, la Douane ne refuse la restitution de marchandises saisies moyennant le paiement d'une amende que, dans des cas exceptionnels et très rares, lorsque l'Administration estime qu'il est nécessaire d'épuiser toute la sévérité de la Loi afin d'atteindre autant que l'on peut une personne coutumière de faits de fraude.

Il est indispensable qu'à l'exemple de ce qui existe dans toutes les Lois Douanières, et aussi dans la Loi Indienne, comme le prouve le texte reproduit ci-dessus, la confiscation des marchandises que l'on a tenté de frauder reste inscrite dans la Loi. La rétrocession dans la généralité des cas des marchandises confisquées moyennant paiement d'une amende est d'ailleurs conforme aux intérêts de l'Administration, laquelle s'évite ainsi les difficultés inhérentes à la vente.

Ces explications démontrent qu'il existe une situation de fait conforme au désir exprimé dans le télégramme du Gouvernement des Indes, et, pour ma part, je ne pense dès lors pas qu'il soit nécessaire d'échanger à cet effet une Déclaration spéciale.

Néanmoins, si le Gouvernement des Indes en juge autrement, je suis prêt à ajouter à la Déclaration concernant la confiscation des moyens de transport un nouveau paragraphe conçu comme suit :—

"De même, si l'intéressé le demande par écrit, ou si la demande en est faite de sa part par le Consul de la nation à laquelle il appartient, au plus tard cinq jours après le jour de la notification de la saisie, les marchandises confisquées dans le cas de l'Article 97 du Règlement légal seront restituées au délinquant ou à son représentant moyennant une amende à fixer par l'Administration des Douanes suivant les circonstances, mais dont le montant ne peut en aucun cas excéder la valeur de la marchandise.

"Cette disposition n'est pas applicable—

"1. Si, pour des motifs spéciaux, l'Administration juge nécessaire de maintenir la confiscation afin de punir plus sévèrement les personnes qui se sont livrées à la fraude ;

"2. S'il s'agit de marchandises susceptibles de détérioration rapide, à moins que la demande de reprise de la marchandise soit produite immédiatement après la notification de la saisie, et qu'en même temps le délinquant paie la contre-valeur de la marchandise pour amende."

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) J. NAUS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 26.

Sir A. Hardinge to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulahek, August* 10, 1904.

M. NAUS says he is willing to grant, as an alternative to confiscation of goods, the imposition of a fine not to exceed the value of the goods, and to be lower in cases where there are grounds for being indulgent. He says that his administration has always proceeded hitherto on these lines in practice.

No. 27.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 684. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 26, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the translation of a Report lately submitted to the Grand Vizier by Nakib Zade Talib Bey, ex-Mutessarif of El Hassa (Nejd), on the subject of Arabia and its relations to the rest of the Ottoman Empire and to England.

Talib Bey's views are of some interest, as he is of a family of great local importance, and has political ambitions which will make him a likely candidate for the post of Vali of Bussorah at the next vacancy. His opinions are doubtless coloured by his sense of

the most favourable light in which to present them to the Porte and the Palace, but I have nevertheless thought it worth while to send direct to the Acting Consul at Bussorah, for transmission to the Residency at Bushire, the gist of Talib Bey's observations on the situation at Koweit, to which I have the honour of drawing your Lordship's special attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Report on Arabia by Nakib Zade Talib Bey.

(Translation.)

THE future of Irak is overshadowed by a dense and gloomy cloud; for in that district foreign intrigue is increasing from year to year. Its inhabitants being ignorant and uncivilized, there is full scope for the machinations of foreigners, who stir up sedition, even in places where there are no Consuls, by means of a number of spies whom they employ, in the guise of traders, and the seed of sedition is being sown. As a result, for instance, of the efforts and incitements of the Persian Mujtahids and Jesuitical Ulema, the larger and more important part of the population of Irak has abandoned Sunni-ism and gone over to the Shiite heresy. If the Imperial Government, taking these and other circumstances into its consideration, does not put forth its best efforts in respect of improving the condition of its subjects, and of the ability to distinguish between good and evil through the spread of instruction, I have no doubt that in twenty or thirty years—perhaps even in a shorter space of time—the whole of the regions and districts of the Persian Gulf and the Tigris will pass under the protection of England, the craftiest and most astute of all. Consequently, I consider it a duty to submit to your Highness the measures which it is necessary to carry out as regards Irak, for the purpose of obviating a future pregnant with such injurious consequences.

1. To every tribe should be sent two teachers, of tried capacity and free from bigotry, to preach and give advice to the ignorant tribesmen, to instruct them in the doctrines and rites of the Mahommedan religion, and to inculcate on them, simply and without fanaticism, the duty of submission and obedience to the Imperial Government. To each of these teachers should be accorded a salary of 700 or 800 piastres a-month.

2. In order to induce the tribes to adopt a settled domicile and abandon their nomadic life, it should be explained to and impressed upon the population, by means of the Koran and the sacred traditions, and through the instrumentality of these teachers, that Mahommedanism is impossible without due performance of the Friday prayers, and that, therefore, in order to perform these prayers, it is essential to construct one, two, or three mosques for every tribe.

3. By means of these religious and educational movements, the clans of Irak will first of all be induced to erect mosques and places for prayer at their own expense, and later on, if it is pointed out to them in a suitable manner that schools are necessary for their children, there can be no doubt that they will construct these also, and so in ten or fifteen years their settlement in fixed abodes will have been brought about.

4. If the religious rites and the perils of foreign intervention are explained and expatiated upon from time to time in the course of preaching, it is clear that not one of the Arabs, whose hearts are simple and inclined to fidelity, will deviate or turn aside from submission to the Imperial Government.

5. In any case it is of the first necessity to reform the Caza of Koweit, which is looked to as an example by the Arabs of Irak, and to bring Mubarek-es-Sabah into the path of obedience and submission.

6. Until the present privileges of the Caza of Koweit have been abrogated and it has been reconstituted as a single caza together with Fao, the Province of Irak and, in particular, the Vilayet of Bussorah, cannot be made safe against the aggressive plans of England.

7. England's protection of Mubarek-es-Sabah being very extensive and of a nature to infringe upon the rights of the Ottoman Empire, the measures sufficient for securing peace and tranquillity in those districts would be to summon Mubarek-es-Sabah to the capital of the vilayet and from thence send him on to Constantinople with all sort of favours, setting up in his place a trustworthy man well acquainted

with local conditions, and forming Koweit and Fao into a single caza or even, in view of their extent of territory, into a mutessariflik.

8. The hostility between Mubarek-es-Sabah and Ibn-er-Rashid having by these means been got rid of, peace and order would be re-established amongst the tribes. No room being left for intrigue or sedition, it will be a simple thing to make the Arabs settle down and bring them under the influence of civilization. It is easy to bring the Saadouni and other tribes into the path of submission, but the Turkish officials, through their ignorance of local conditions, have hitherto been incapable of recommending the necessary measures, simple as they may be.

9. In order to gain the sympathy of the Arabs and leave no occasion for intrigue and seditious agitation amongst them, until they acquire the necessary degree of civilization the Imperial Government should, for the present, allow them the privilege of settling and deciding questions by means of a cadi of their own choice, in accordance with their own customs and usages.

10. The fiscal system in Irak stands in need of modification and reform, the maintenance of the present system being impracticable, since under it neither the State is tranquil nor can the wild and uneducated natives of those revenue districts be at ease.

11. The method of collection of the Verghi, Domestic Animal Tax and Tithe, is extremely detrimental to the Treasury on account of the injustice and tyranny of the officers necessitating the dispatch of military expeditions, entailing a heavy annual expenditure. Owing to the numbers that resort to flight, a large proportion of the Government dues remain in arrears and it becomes necessary to dispatch a fresh expedition to collect these. It is unnecessary to explain how ruinous this is.

12. As regards taxation, if three persons were selected from amongst the Chiefs and Notables of each tribe, and the duty of collecting the Verghi and other Government dues falling to the share of that tribe or clan were confided to them, all contention would thereby be avoided, and the extra expenditure necessitated by military expeditions would be so much gain to the Treasury.

13. Care should be taken that the local civil officials in Irak are thoroughly well acquainted with Arabic, for not only are the advice and exhortations of officials, knowing the language of the country, of the greatest efficacy, but they can also, in the course of their journeys, make important investigations and collect much information.

14. In order to attract and attach the Arabs, it would be well to employ some of them as gendarmes or mounted police, choosing and appointing the majority of their officers from amongst the sons of Arabs or Arabic-speaking persons from the chief town of the Vilayet. If some also are appointed from amongst the headmen of the different tribes, no jealousy or contention can arise.

15. In order to bring the Arabs into complete submission, it would be well to appoint a Naib and a Mufti to each tribe, to be the means of putting a limit to the gradually-increasing privileges of the Chiefs, and until this object is attained the salaries and allowances of these Naibs and Muftis should be defrayed out of the Imperial Treasury.

16. All the independent Arab Sheikhs from Babel Mandeb to Hadramant admit the suzerainty of the Ottoman Empire. If they are not in full submission and obedience, it is due to the negligence and short-sightedness of the Imperial Government.

17. As regards the effective union and dependence of the Arabian Peninsula on the Ottoman Empire, not only will it constitute an inconceivable glory and impetus for the people of Islam, but foreigners—and particularly England, the most strenuous rival of the Ottoman Empire in Irak and Arabia—will no longer be able to carry on their intrigues as at present.

18. The writer has numerous indications that the Amir of Bahrein will declare his allegiance and submission by means of a special letter.

19. The Emirs of Shehr and Mokalla also, though they are faithful and well-inclined towards the Ottoman Empire, yet, as it has not been found possible to send any invitation or message to them, they have remained in ignorance of the power and glory of the Empire, as well as of its present political requirements.

20. The gaining over to the side of the Imperial Government of the Arab Sheikhs of Hadramant, Lahej, &c., which border on the Yemen Vilayet, by means of civilities, robes of honour, and such like, is a question which regards the Vilayet of Yemen.

21. As regards their character, habits, and moral qualities, the Arab clans are

quiet and submissive, and inclined to obedience, so that if they are treated with kindness and clemency, instead of harshness and violence, there is no necessity to send military expeditons against them or to terrify or threaten them.

22. If the Arabs of the Hedjaz, and Yemen, and Irak are called in and well intreated by the local authorities in the manner set forth in the above articles, and more especially by means of the efforts of the learned Imams and Ulema charged with the task of instructing them in the religion, it is certain that in a very short time a state of power and wealth will be reached which could not be attained by the expenditure of millions.

23. Had the Ottoman Government not closed its eyes and left the Arabs till now to their fate, the partition of Africa would not have taken place, and the English and other foreign nations would not have been known or desired by the Arabs.

24. It is not difficult to manifest the glory and influence of the Government amongst the Arabs, on condition of not running counter to their character and customs, but it is essential that all the Ulemas and officials charged with the execution of the task should be men of intelligence, learning, and tact.

25. There is naturally an understanding and agreement amongst the Christian States for the purpose of weakening and splitting up the dominions of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. With a view to this they do not leave the Imperial Government an opportunity of developing the country.

26. Persia is a neighbour, but a perfidious enemy of the Ottoman Government. Though, by reason of its limited force and absence of power and organization, it cannot exercise any material influence over the tribal Arabs and Kurds, yet, by means of the Mujtahids and Ulema, whom it maintains established in the holy places, it leads the population astray into the Shiah heresies.

27. To protect and guard the Sunnis from perversion, the Imperial Government should exercise to the full the rights secured to it by Treaty. It is essential for its preservation and development that it should banish and remove to their own country the Persian intriguers who are to be found in different parts of Irak, and especially in religious centres like Meshed and Kerbela.

28. The uniting of the districts and provinces of Syria, Hedjaz, Yemen, and Irak into one country and the development and exploitation of this extensive territory by means of the completion of the Bagdad main line, the Hedjaz–Hamidieh and Beyrout–Damascus Hamidieh lines, is conditional on the settlement of the Arabs and the development of its resources by the formation of townships.

29. It is an important condition that the objects above-mentioned should be brought to a successful issue without loss of time; for it is necessary at the present time, while assuring to the Arab Sheikhs the permanence of their special privileges, to secure the annulling of the Treaties which they have concluded with foreigners at haphazard, in ignorance and on ordinary paper, and, for the future, to caution and prevent them from concluding and signing any sort of Treaty or Convention without giving notice to and soliciting the advice of those officials of the Imperial Government who may be nearest to them.

30. England knows and appreciates the strength which Turkey will gain later on, and the wealth and increase of security that she will acquire from the railway lines of Bagdad, Syria, and the Hedjaz. Therefore, one can understand from her present conduct in Irak and other Arab countries that she has already thought out and laid the foundations of the policy that she will carry out in the next fifty years in order to get hold of these important and valuable works.

31. Whereas in Irak Winchester and Martini rifles were only seen in the hands of the troops and gendarmes, at the present time the use of these weapons has become almost universal amongst the Arab tribes, and their manufacture and importation are continually on the increase.

32. According to my recent investigations, it is principally the English steamers that are engaged in smuggling arms and ammunition in those districts. The voyages of French and other Companies are not frequent, and they are not so well known or appreciated amongst the Arabs.

33. England is anxious in regard to the railway lines mentioned above, since her trade will be considerably affected by them. Especially in view of the Bagdad line being under the control of German concessionaries, it is natural that England should regard with jealousy the ground that will be gained and the mines and other advantages that will be obtained by that Power, which is her greatest commercial rival, but from the time of the occupation of the Soudan and the prolongation of that railway, it is clear that she did not neglect to fix the policy she was to follow in the

Hedjaz, Yemen, and Irak. The Ottoman Government has to take steps to counteract these efforts, the results of which will be detrimental to its interests.

If the points set out in this Report, which I have jotted down as they came into my mind, to serve as a basis for further and more elaborate studies, are accepted by your Highness, and special Agents are appointed and dispatched from the nearest points to those vilayets, regions, and districts in order to carry out preliminary investigations in the manner set forth above, I venture to submit that it will be advantageous to make good its deficiencies and elaborate a policy and line of action.

Dated the 20th Jemazi-el-ewel, 1322, *i.e.*, the 3rd August, 1904.

No. 28.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated Perim, the 3rd instant, relative to the Aden boundary delimitation.

India Office, September 5, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Perim, September* 3, 1904.

ADEN delimitation.

On the 2nd instant I received the following telegram from Sir N. O'Conor:—

"Your telegrams Nos. 30 and 31.

"Statement of Porte to Turkish Commissioner, if really made as reported, is false, as I am insisting on Murad Wells. Please refer to map inclosed in your despatch No. 44. Would it not be possible (always providing, of course, that our 'lien' is recognized by Turks) for the line to be drawn from Bir Kuwah to Murad Wells? We are anxious that garrison of Turba should not be deprived of its water supply, but a line of frontier following shore at any less distance than about 500 yards would, in our opinion, be open to great objection."

I have sent the following telegram, dated the 3rd instant, to Sir N. O'Conor in reply:—

"Between Bir Kuwah and Suediya there are water-holes; there is also a second well which is not marked upon the map. I have pressed the Turkish Commissioner to accept the line running from Suediya to point marked by letter B in Turba on map, and to Murad Wells. Details can be settled here if Porte is induced by your Excellency to send instructions to Turkish Commissioner, who has telegraphed for them, instructing him to accept Murad Wells."

(Repeated to Viceroy, Foreign Department.)

No. 29.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram, dated 4th September, from the Viceroy, relative to the proposed Karun Irrigation Scheme.

India Office, September 5, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 4, 1904.

PERSIAN loan.

Please see telegram of the 28th August from Sir A. Hardinge.

I understand that deputation of an Indian engineer for the purpose of investigating irrigation works in Arabistan is contemplated by His Majesty's Government. We are very short-handed in India, but if the services of an irrigation engineer are required we will do our best to spare one. It appears from information received from Burton and Lorimer that the whole plain of Arabistan is capable of being irrigated from the Karun and other rivers; and Lorimer has been sounded by Sheikh of Mohammerah as to whether, in the event of his undertaking irrigating schemes, he may expect assistance from Government. I would suggest that project prepared by engineer should be submitted to Willcocks for his opinion, as it would carry weight with capitalists. Willcocks proposes to pay a visit to Mesopotamia from Egypt on the 1st November. Engineer selected should start soon, so as to begin work in October.

(Repeated to Tehran.)

No. 30.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 132.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 6, 1904.

I HAVE received and communicated to the Secretary of State for India your despatch No. 123 of the 2nd July, relative to the re-establishment of the telegraph station at Hayam.

The terms of your note to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch, are approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 31.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams relative to quarantine arrangements at Bushire.

India Office, September 7, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, August* 31, 1904.

PLEASE let me have a statement of your views on the telegram No. 90 of the 22nd August from Sir A. Hardinge, regarding quarantine arrangements at Bushire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 7, 1904.

YOUR telegram of the 31st August regarding quarantine arrangements at Bushire. Resident in Persian Gulf represents that quarantine on the isthmus must continue to be subject to the authority in charge of quarantine by sea, Bushire being practically an island; otherwise endless friction will be caused by mixed jurisdiction. My views are explained in my telegram of the 2nd July, to which I would invite reference. Lord Lansdowne's telegram of the 13th August, 1903, authorized His Majesty's Minister at Tehran to ask that Customs officers should abstain from interfering with quarantine arrangements. Should this request not be complied with, I concur with Sir A. Hardinge in thinking that it will be desirable to ship and land guards for quarantine officers in Persian Gulf. This latter course was suggested to Sir A. Hardinge by Lord Curzon on the 2nd August, 1903, as a set off to quarantine cordon maintained by Russians in Khorassan.

(Repeated to Tehran.)

No. 32.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 8.)

Sir, *India Office, September* 8, 1904.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Villiers' letter of the 25th August, forwarding a copy of Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 122 of the 1st July last relative to the state of Arabistan.

In reply I am to say that Mr. Brodrick concurs in Lord Lansdowne's proposal to approve the terms of the note addressed by Sir A. Hardinge to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh on the 24th June.

With regard to the question of providing road guards, I am to say that Mr. Brodrick will consult the Government of India, and will communicate his observations when he is in possession of the views of that Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 33.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulahek, September* 8, 1904.

GULF quarantine.

My telegram No. 90 of the 22nd ultimo.

A week ago the Grand Vizier promised me that he would send orders by telegraph to Bushire that the Customs officials should abstain from interference with quarantine in the Gulf ports, but he said that after M. Naus' return from leave he proposed to rediscuss the matter.

Under orders from his Highness, the Acting Chief of Customs has sent the following telegram to the Director-General at Bushire:—

"As far as possible, you are to abstain from all interference with quarantine. Recommend this especially to Dr. Bussiere; at the same time, this does not deprive you of the right of reporting to Tehran any steps prejudicial to the Persian Government that might be taken by the quarantine officials."

The Acting Chief of Customs wishes to shelve the question until M. Naus' return, and has privately informed the Director at Bushire that he should construe in the widest sense the expression "as far as possible."

He tells me that owing to alleged differential treatment by one of our quarantine officers at Lingah of an English and Russian vessel, which led to a protest by the French Legation here on account of the treatment of a French traveller on the Russian ship, the Persian Government has been placed in a false position. He has promised

to send me the papers. The Persian Government say that it is incidents like the above that they wish reported here when they occur. No immediate further meddling need, I think, be apprehended, and the Persian Government, even after M. Naus' return, may hesitate to reopen the question which they know means tackling the Russian cordon.

(Sent to India and Bushire.)

No. 34.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 9, 1904.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd July last I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that he has had under his consideration the telegrams which have recently passed between His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and Mr. Fitzmaurice respecting the delimitation of the south section of the Aden frontier. From this correspondence it appears that the Turkish Government object to the proposal that the frontier line should run from Jebel Kuup to Sheikh Murad, and that it will be difficult to induce them to give way on this point; but Lord Lansdowne understands that they would probably agree to the line being drawn to Jebel Hosisi, the point proposed by the British Commissioner.

Lord Lansdowne considers that it is very desirable that these negotiations should be concluded as soon as possible. It appears to his Lordship that provided that if, as proposed by Sir N. O'Conor, a lien is obtained by His Majesty's Government over the whole of the country up to Akama and Kuddam, it is not a matter of vital importance whether the frontier runs to Sheikh Murad or to Jebel Hosisi, and that protracted negotiations may lead to publicity and the consequent loss of this opportunity of securing the lien question.

I am therefore to suggest, for Mr. Brodrick's consideration, that His Majesty's Government should now agree to accept Jebel Hosisi as the point at which the frontier line reaches the sea, and that Sir N. O'Conor should be authorized to conduct the negotiations on this basis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 35.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 10.)

Sir, *India Office, September* 8, 1904.

IN continuation of Sir A. Godley's letter of the 22nd June last relative to steps to be taken in consequence of the inability of the Turkish authorities to punish the perpetrators of the outrage on a relative of the Sheikh of Bahrein, I am directed by Mr Secretary Brodrick to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a letter from the Government of India.

It will be seen that, for the reasons stated in the third paragraph of their letter, the Government of India do not propose to give the Sheikh of Bahrein authority to avenge himself, pending the revised arrangements for their representation at Bahrein, which were sanctioned in the Secretary of State's despatch of the 5th August last, and which, it may be expected, will be carried into effect shortly.

Mr. Gaskin's report of the 11th June, however, categorically denies the allegation that the guilty members of the Behaih tribe have since been killed in an engagement with the Turks. Mr. Brodrick would therefore suggest that Sir N. O'Conor should now be instructed to again approach the Turkish Government on the subject, and to warn them, in accordance with the terms of Lord Lansdowne's despatch No. 132 of the 12th April last, that if satisfactory reparation is not made by them without further procrastination, His Majesty's Government will be unable to dissuade the Sheikh from taking the matter into his own hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Simla, August 11, 1904.

WITH reference to your telegram dated the 17th May, 1904, and in continuation of our telegraphic reply dated the 17th June, 1904, we have the honour to forward, for information, a copy of a Report received from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, together with copies of certain connected papers relative to the murder in December 1900 of a party of Bahreinese near El Katif by the Behaih tribe.

2. From the details now furnished, it will be observed that the persons reported by the Wali of Bussorah to have been killed in a fight at Zernaka between a Turkish convoy and Ibn Mekiriah and his companions, were not those actually concerned in the murder of Sheikh Selman and his followers; and that the real perpetrators of the outrage are still at large, and presumably within Turkish jurisdiction. The contention of the Governor of Nejd that the murder was the outcome of animosity is also refuted. Mr. Gaskin's letter, dated the 12th December, 1900, formed one of the inclosures to our Secret despatch, dated the 27th January, 1901. A copy of his letter, dated the 27th January, 1901, and also of Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball's letter, dated the 6th June, 1902, and in which the purport of Mr. Gaskin's references, dated respectively the 3rd and 17th May, 1902, was included, are now inclosed.

3. In view of the attitude adopted by Sheikh Isa in refusing to accept our advice in regard to the administration of his customs revenues, we have deemed it advisable to withhold for the present from the Chief any information regarding the concession which His Majesty's Government are prepared to make to him in the matter of avenging himself on his enemies on the mainland, and we intend, with your approval, to make no communication to him on the subject pending the receipt of the orders of His Majesty's Government on the proposals put forward in our Secret despatch dated the 21st April, 1904, for a revision of the arrangements for British representation at Manama.

If there is likely to be delay in the issue of these orders, we would suggest that, in order to prevent the possibility of the Sheikh's case being prejudiced by delay, the fact of the murderers being still at large, and in Turkish territory apparently, might be brought to the notice of the Porte. As the Sheikh is precluded from proceeding against them while in that territory, the advisability of again pressing for the payment of pecuniary compensation might also be considered.

We have, &c.

(Signed) AMPTHILL.
KITCHENER.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No 35.

Mr. Gaskin to Major Cox.

(Confidential.)

Bahrein, June 11, 1904.

ADVERTING to correspondence ending with your Confidential letter dated the 15th April, 1904, on the subject of the murder of Sheikh Selman-bin-Diaij and his followers on the 3rd December, 1900, I have the honour to report that, owing to the fact that the information called for in the second paragraph of your letter could not be obtained locally, and the Chief of Bahrein having had to dispatch an Arab to the mainland for the purpose, it could not be furnished earlier.

I am informed by the Chief's messenger that the leaders of the raid were Rashid-bin-Mekarih, Mutib-al-Munnakhas, Mohsin, and Talib, sons of Ali-bin-Noman, nephews of Rashid-bin-Mekarih, and Rashid and Mohsin, sons of Dewairis-al-Hamaidi, also nephews of Rashid-bin-Mekarih; that Rashid-bin-Mekarih and Rashid-bin-Dewairis-al-Hamaidi were killed in the attack on Sheikh Selman, and Mohsin-bin-Dewairis-al-Hamaidi was wounded in the thigh on the same occasion, but subsequently recovered. The other members of the raiding party were Behaih tribesmen, whose names have not yet been procured.

As regards the persons mentioned in the communication from the Porte to His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, I would venture to report that the only member of the Mekarih family killed by the Turks since the murder was Ibn Retaiban, a nephew of Rashid-bin-Mekarih, on the 10th September, 1902, at Zarnooga, about 14 miles south of Hofuf.

This youth was not concerned in the outrage. Ali-bin-Monakib was a Behaih tribesman, and was killed in the first week of October, 1902, in the incident mentioned in the entry, dated the 13th October, in this office diary for the 18th October, 1902. These two men were not concerned in the attack at Tinofa. Ibn Ketifa is also a Behaihi, and is known to be alive, and is with his tribe. Muhammad-bin-Nejdan, Hassan Cherimet, and Toritor do not appear to be known as having been members of the Behaih tribe.

Though the actual number of the attacking party is unknown, it is generally stated that it was composed of over fifty persons. The fact that two of the leaders were killed in the attack, and possibly five tribesmen may have been subsequently killed in skirmishes with Turkish troops dispatched in connection with cases entirely disconnected with the murder of Sheikh Selman and his followers, I cannot see how the Behaih can be considered as exonerated by the Porte, since four of the leaders in the attack and over forty tribesmen are still at large.

The contention of the Governor of Nejd to the effect that the crime was due to the animosity existing between the Sheikhs of Bahrein and the Behaih tribe is erroneous, as will be seen from the data of the case set forth in my letters, dated the 12th December, 1900, and 27th January, 1901.

With reference to the question of compensation, it is hoped that the fact that the 35,140 rupees represent blood-money for the lives of only twenty-one victims and the value of the camels, arms, and camp equipment taken by the Behaih, and that the Turks will still have to execute three of the principal men concerned in satisfaction of the lives of Sheikh Selman, his son, Diaij, and his nephew, Abdul Rahman-bin-Rashid, for whose murder the Chief cannot accept compensation, as pointed out in my letters dated the 3rd and 17th May, 1902, respectively, will not be overlooked.

I may mention that the Behaih Arabs are a sub-division of the Murra Arabs, and are not powerful enough to separate themselves from the main tribe, and go into the desert of Nejd for the reason that they would be soon exterminated by the large tribes in that district, and consequently they have never been beyond the limits of Al Hassa or Katr, and now the tribe is encamped at Salwa, on the western border of Katr. The statement that the tribe has fled into the desert of Nejd is fabricated, with a view to cover the inactivity of the El Hassa authorities.

I have duly warned the Chief to take no independent action in the matter.

No. 36.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 10.)

Sir,

India Office, September 8, 1904.

WITH reference to the correspondence regarding the question of the grant of French flags to the subjects of the Sultan of Muscat, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a letter from the Government of India, reporting a typical instance of the difficulties connected with the privileges conferred by the French authorities on these persons.

A copy of the final draft of the *compromis* (inclosed in Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 23rd July last) was forwarded to the Government of India on the 5th August, but had not reached them when their letter now under consideration was written.

I am further to request that you will draw Lord Lansdowne's special attention to the remarks of the Government of India as to the delay of the French Government in furnishing the list of flag-holders to the Sultan.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Simla, August 11, 1904.

WITH reference to your telegram dated the 15th April, 1904, we have the honour to forward, for your information, a copy of the correspondence noted in the annexed schedule, regarding the claim preferred by the French Consul at Muscat, on behalf of the owner of a native boat alleged to have been wrecked and plundered in the territory of the Sheikh of Debai.

2. We do not propose to discuss the merits of the case, which has now been settled by the awards of a Native Religious Court. The subject to which we desire to invite attention is that of the right of the French Consul to intervene in the matter. The ostensible reason for such interference lay in the fact that the vessel sailed under the French flag. From the marginally noted report it will be seen that the owner was one Ali-bin-Salim,* a native of Suweyk, in the territories of the Sultan of Muscat, and his title to fly French colours appears to rest solely, so far as we are aware, on the fact that his father, who died some two years ago, was in possession of a French flag.

This, therefore, raises the question as to whether the right to fly a French flag descends by inheritance. The point has not yet been settled, but in your telegram dated the 21st May, 1903, you mentioned that it was proposed to refer to the Hague Tribunal, *inter alia*, the matter as to whether such privileges could be claimed by the heirs and families of French flag-holders. In the draft compromise,† this issue is not specially mentioned, and though, in the correspondence ending with our telegram dated the 20th April, 1904, we particularly desired that the reference to the Hague Tribunal be pressed, yet the exact terms of the inquiry have not been clearly stated in any document received by us. It is consequently presumed that the above point will be expressly settled.

3. The case under consideration brings to notice the action of Ali-bin-Salim, in not only continuing to fly the French flag originally granted to his father, but in having also transferred it to a new vessel purchased by him, owing to the destruction of the former in the accident which led to the settlement arrived at by the Debai Religious Court. It, therefore, remains for consideration whether such transfer can be made, and also whether a flag-holder can fly the flag on all the boats that he may possess or claim to own, which latter action is open to even greater abuse.

In the Memorandum‡ handed by the French Ambassador to Lord Lansdowne on the 14th August, 1901, it was explained that strict instructions had been given to their Consuls and colonial authorities not to renew existing permits of navigation, or to grant new ones, except in cases where all was found to be perfectly regular, and in particular to see that Article 32 and the following Articles of the Brussels Act were observed. Article 34 of this instrument enjoins annual renewal of the authorization, and it does not appear that due effect has been given to the provisions of the Article in the case of Ali-bin-Salim.

4. We take the present opportunity to invite attention to the undertaking given by the French Government in May 1903, that,§ within a reasonable delay, they would furnish the Sultan of Muscat with a list of all persons possessing permits to fly the French flag. Fifteen months have now elapsed, but no such list appears yet to have been handed to His Highness.

We have, &c.

(Signed) AMPTHILL.
KITCHENER.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.

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* Captain Grey, His Britannic Majesty's Consul and Political Agent, Muscat, dated 14th June.

† *Vide* inclosure to despatch from the Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson, No. 592, dated the 25th November, 1903.

‡ *Vide* Foreign Office to Sir E. Monson, No. 384, dated August 14, 1901.

§ *Vide* Marquess of Lansdowne to M. Cambon, dated May 23, 1903.

No. 36*.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 10.)

Sir,

India Office, September 8, 1904.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge receipt of Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 4th August last, asking for his observations on a Memorandum left by the French Ambassador, relating to a proposal that the Island of Bahrein should be included within the Consular district of the French Vice-Consul at Bushire.

Lord Lansdowne is no doubt aware that the Sheikh of Bahrein has undertaken not to permit any foreign Power, except Great Britain, to establish a Consular Agency in his territory without the consent of His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Brodrick has consulted the Government of India regarding the answer which should be returned to the inquiry of the French Government, and I am to inclose a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 1st instant, conveying their views upon the question.

It will be seen that the Government of India would prefer that the question should be postponed until their position with regard to the pearl fisheries has been ascertained, and until their newly appointed Agent at Bahrein has had time to establish his influence. If, however, Lord Lansdowne should consider it to be inexpedient to delay his reply to M. Cambon, Mr. Brodrick considers that the reply should be such as to safeguard our position of exclusive influence in Bahrein. Whether or not it is desirable in the circumstances that an exequatur should be given to the French Vice-Consul at Bushire to enable him to discharge Consular duties at Bahrein, which would not be covered by his exequatur from the Persian Government, Mr. Brodrick is not in a position to offer an opinion, but the other conditions which the Government of India desire to impose appear to him to be necessary.

With regard to the suggestion that this opportunity should be taken to explain to the French Government the views taken by the Government of India of their obligations in regard to the pearl fisheries, Mr. Brodrick thinks that any such communication would be premature until the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown has been received; but it might, in his opinion, be expedient to point out to M. Cambon that any intrusion by foreigners on the pearling banks, which have from time immemorial been worked exclusively by the neighbouring Arab tribes, would undoubtedly give rise to serious local disturbances.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 36*.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Secret.)

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, September 1, 1904.

YOUR telegram of 17th instant.

We would prefer postponement of question of French Consular representation in Bahrein until our position as regard pearling banks is established, more especially as it has been raised in connection with proposed pearling enterprise of the French, to which Arabs object. It is desirable also to defer decision until our Political Agent has established his influence at Bahrein, and until we have secured authority from Sheikhs, if this is necessary. Dilatoriness of French tactics regarding Goguyer and French flag case warrant careful consideration in this important matter.

If immediate action is necessary, we would only recognize French Vice-Consul at Bushire as Vice-Consul for Manama on clear understanding (1) that exequatur be obtained from His Majesty's Government, (2) that dealings shall be with British Political Officer alone, and (3) that French Vice-Consul acquire no extra-territorial jurisdiction, British Political Agent exercising good offices, as contemplated in case of German subject Wenckhaus (*vide* our Secret despatch dated the 9th May, 1901).

Mention of the intended pearling operations not only affords convenient opportunity, but seems to make it imperative to explain to French Government views propounded in despatch of the 10th March last, with modifications, if any necessitated, by advice of Law Officers. If this is done, proposal may be dropped, and this is most satisfactory solution. You will, perhaps, telegraph if it is considered necessary to obtain from tribes concerned precise delegation contemplated in letter of India Office to Foreign Office dated the 30th June last.

No. 37.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 10.)

Sir,

India Office, September 9, 1904.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Villiers' letter of the 29th August last, communicating the observations of the Marquess of Lansdowne on the draft despatch to the Government of India relative to the proposed Treaty with the Sheikh of El Katr. In reply I am to state that the concluding portion of the draft has been revised in accordance with Lord Lansdowne's suggestion, and I am to inclose, for his Lordship's information, a copy of the despatch as sent.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

India Office, September 9, 1904.

WITH reference to the letter from the Government of India, Secret, of the 31st March last, I forward herewith a copy of correspondence* with the Foreign Office on the subject of the proposal to conclude a Protectorate Treaty with Sheikh Ahmed-bin-Thani of El Katr.

2. Your Excellency will observe that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople regrets that a further question should be raised with the Turkish Government at the present moment, when there are already other matters of importance under discussion between the Porte and His Majesty's Government, and that he does not consider that the conclusion of the proposed Agreement with Sheikh Ahmed is warranted by the delay of the Turkish Government in cancelling the Mudirate at Wakra. It appears, however, from his Excellency's despatch of the 28th June, 1904, that he considers that such an Agreement might be justified to the Turkish Government, on the ground that its object is to give His Majesty's Government the right to restrain foreign interference in El Katr, without attempting in any other way to disturb the *status quo* so far as the Turkish Government is concerned.

3. The decision, therefore, depends upon the question whether the objects to be attained by the proposed Agreement are of sufficient importance to counterbalance the suspicion and ill-will which it would be calculated to arouse in the minds of the Turkish Government. The El Katr coast at present constitutes a break in the continuity of our maritime influence along the shores of this part of the Gulf, lying as it does between the island of Bahrein and the Pirate Coast. The absence of any Agreement with the Sheikh may prove, in certain contingencies, a hindrance to the proper exercise by His Majesty's ships of their duties in the suppression of piracy and the maintenance of the peace of the Gulf. It also presents a difficulty of considerable importance from the point of view of the protection of the pearl fisheries from outside interference, to which reference is made in your letter under reply.

4. The argument which Sir N. O'Conor bases on the multiplicity of points in the Persian Gulf, regarding which he is simultaneously pressing the Ottoman Government, is of some weight, and it seems doubtful whether the considerations referred to in the second part of the preceding paragraph are of such immediate and urgent importance as to justify immediate action in spite of his reluctance to add at present to his difficulties with the Turkish Government.

5. I shall therefore await a further expression of your views by telegraph before authority is given to you to conclude an Agreement with Sheikh Ahmed, even with the precautions and reservations suggested by Sir N. O'Conor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

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* To Foreign Office, 18th May, 1904; See Part XIX, Nos. 68, 159*, and 193.

No. 38.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 10.)

Sir, *India Office, September* 10, 1904.

WITH reference to Mr. Villiers' letter of the 3rd instant, forwarding a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran reporting the signature of the Agreement for the advance of a further sum of 100,000*l.* to complete the loan made to the Persian Government in April 1904, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to state, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, that the sum in question was paid to the Imperial Bank of Persia on the 7th instant, for the purposes of the loan to the Persian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 39.

Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 246.)
My Lord, *Tôkiô, August* 11, 1904.

I OBSERVE from Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 435 of the 7th June last, included in the sections of print which reached me by last bag, that his Highness the Atabeg Azam of Persia has given an erroneous account to Mr. Townley of the action I took on your Lordship's telegram No. 1 of this year, at the time of his Highness' visit to Tôkiô.

By that telegram your Lordship was so good as to inform me that, in answer to the Atabeg's inquiry made through the United States' Minister in this capital as to His Majesty's Government's attitude towards him, Mr. Griscom was at liberty to say that the result of his confidential inquiries was to satisfy him that His Majesty's Government regarded the Atabeg with sincere goodwill, and would welcome his efforts to co-operate with them in their attempts to promote the true interests of Persia.

By my request Mr. Griscom informed the Atabeg in the desired sense.

On the day of his departure from Tôkiô, while lunching at the Legation, his Highness adverted to what Mr. Griscom had said. He said he had not entirely understood Mr. Griscom's words, and he hoped that as Mr. Griscom was not present to explain them more clearly to him, I would write down their sense for him. As the message appeared to me to be very non-committal, I saw no objection to doing so, but I need hardly say that it is wholly untrue that I gave him in any way to understand that it was a message to which any answer was expected. It was clearly understood at the time that it was a reply from Mr. Griscom to an inquiry addressed to him by the Atabeg, the reply, of course, being based on information obtained from me by Mr. Griscom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

No. 40.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 12, 1904.

AS joint control of quarantine on isthmus, such as you suggest, would be likely to cause friction, and as the arrangement might tend to become permanent, we concur in view that quarantine on isthmus should remain with authority in charge of sea quarantine.

Refer to your telegram No. 90 of the 22nd August, and Viceroy's telegram of the 7th September, relating to Bushire quarantine.

No. 41.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 13.)

Sir, *India Office, September* 12, 1904.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Villier's letter of the 9th instant, as to the delimitation of the Subaihi section of the Aden frontier from Jebel Kuwah to the sea.

Having regard to the risk of losing the opportunity of securing a lien on the country south of the Akama-Kuddam line involved in protracting the discussion with the Turkish Government, Mr. Brodrick concurs with the Marquess of Lansdowne in thinking that, provided the lien in question is secured, Jebel Hasisi may be accepted by His Majesty's Government as the point at which the line of boundary is to strike the sea, and that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople may be instructed to conduct the negotiations henceforth on this basis.

I am to add that the Government of India have been informed of the decision of His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 42.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) P *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1904.

THE Government of India have been informed of the following with reference to the Aden delimitation:—

"You are authorized to conduct negotiations henceforth on the following basis. In view of risk of losing opportunity of securing lien on country south of Akama-Kuddam, involved in protracting negotiations, we have decided that, provided lien in question is secured, Jabal Hasisi may be accepted as point at which boundary is to strike the sea."

No. 43.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1904.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 29th August, forwarding correspondence respecting the revision of existing Treaty engagements with the Amir of Dthala.

Lord Lansdowne has no observations to offer on the draft despatch to the Government of India, but it appears to his Lordship that, as the Treaty will involve an addition to British national obligations, the draft should be approved by the Prime Minister, and he would therefore suggest that Mr. Brodrick should cause the papers to be submitted to Mr. Balfour for his concurrence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 44.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1904.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran,* inclosing a Circular note from the Persian Government, which

* No. 12.

gives notice that in the future the sale or transfer to foreigners of Concessions granted to Persian subjects will be invalid without the special sanction of the Persian Foreign Office.

With regard to the concluding paragraph of the despatch, steps are being taken for the communication of the note to the press, and for its inclusion among the State Papers which are periodically issued by this Department. There is no immediate intention of reissuing "Hertslet's Persian Treaties," the last edition of which is dated 1901, but I am to suggest that if a fresh volume of "Aitcheson's Treaties" is in contemplation, the paper should be included in it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 45.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1904.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran respecting the affairs of Persian Baluchistan.*

I am to request that Mr. Brodrick's attention may be drawn to the suggestion of His Majesty's Consul at Kerman, in which Sir A. Hardinge concurs, that a British officer, rather than the Nazim of Makran, should be deputed to meet the new Governor of the province.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 46.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1904.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State of India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran relative to the attitude of the Shah and the Persian Government towards the proposal for connecting Henjam by telegraph with Bunder Abbas.†

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Mr. Brodrick concurs, to approve Sir A. Hardinge's action and language, as reported in his despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 47.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of an inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 11th ultimo, relative to Muscat affairs.

India Office, September 13, 1904.

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* No. 14. † No. 21.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Captain Grey to Government of India.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Muscat, July* 19, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of Government, that M. Laronce, Vice-Consul for France at Muscat, left for Europe on four months' leave of absence on the 12th instant, subsequent to his relief by M. Beguin Billecocq, lately interpreter to the French Consulate-General at Cairo.

2. My relations with M. Billecocq are already of a thoroughly cordial nature, and I have every hope that they will remain so. It will be of interest to note that the doings and position of M. Goguyer in Muscat have been explained to him by M. Laronce, in accordance with a promise previously made by the latter to me, and I do not anticipate a reappearance of Goguyer's influence at the French Consulate, and the trouble ensuing therefrom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. GREY.

No. 48.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a Secret letter from the Government of India, dated the 11th August, and inclosures, relative to Muscat Quarantine Regulations and the restrictions on the sale of cheap liquor.

India Office, September 13, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Secret.)
Sir, *Simla, August* 11, 1904.

WE have the honour to refer to paragraph 4 of your Secret despatch, dated the 26th June, 1903, suggesting, with reference to the issue of a notification by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Muscat relative to quarantine arrangements, that the opportunity might be taken to consider whether there are any other points connected with the Municipal law of Muscat, in regard to which it would be conducive to the maintenance of the Sultan's authority as an independent ruler that regulations should be issued under the Muscat Order in Council.

2. The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, who was consulted on the subject, has expressed the opinion, in which we agree, that the only point calling for such measures is one which was already under consideration, namely, that of the imposition of restrictions upon the sale of cheap liquor within the territories of the Sultan. From a report received from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Muscat, it appears that Captain Grey had submitted direct, for your approval, a copy of the notification issued by him in connection with this question.

3. We inclose, for your information, a copy of the correspondence which has passed on the subject.

We have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.
KITCHENER.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.

No. 49.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in letters from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 21st July and 11th August, and telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th August, relative to the grant of a loan to the Sultan of Muscat and the proposed introduction of reformed Customs administration.

India Office, September 13, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Government of India to Major Cox.

Simla, May 6, 1904.

I AM directed to invite attention to the correspondence noted in the margin* regarding the unsatisfactory state of the administration of the Customs at Muscat.

2. The Sultan has in part complied with the wishes of the Government of India in the matter by the cancellation in 1899 of the lease by which his customs were previously farmed out to Hindu Banias, and by undertaking the direct management of this branch of his revenues. Considerable benefit has resulted from this instalment of reform. But the Sultan has hitherto declined to agree to the further recommendation to intrust the supervision of his customs to a British official. The financial advantage to the Sultan of adopting this suggestion is likely to be great, and the political gain is also likely to be considerable. In November 1903, during the Viceroy's visit to the Persian Gulf, his Excellency reminded the Sultan of the benefits which might be expected from the proposed reform, but the Sultan gave no definite undertaking, and merely promised to see what could be done.

3. I am now to request that you will again invite the Sultan's attention to the question and impress upon His Highness that the advice given him by his Excellency cannot be altogether disregarded. In a matter to which he attached great importance, viz., the return of Ali-bin-Salim to Zanzibar, the Government of India at once undertook to help him, and for this and other favours which the Sultan has received at the hands of the British Government, there should be reciprocity, and a definite understanding should be arrived at with the Government of India with regard to the administration of his customs revenues.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Bushire, June 11, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I was preparing certain proposals to submit to Government by this mail with reference to Foreign Department letter, dated the 6th May, on the subject of the customs at Muscat, when I received a telegram from the Political Agent which somewhat upsets my calculations. A paraphrase of it is attached.

2. On further inquiry from Captain Grey, I have ascertained that Seyyid Taimoor has been betrothed to a daughter of Seyyid Ali-bin-Salim, and that the sums which the Sultan already owes to Government for loans, coal, and the cost of the Nur-el-Bahr, amounts, in round figures, to 1,29,000 rupees.

* Letter from the Government of India to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, July 21, 1897; telegram from the Government of India to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, February 22, 1898; Political Agent, Muscat, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, December 12, 1899; Political Resident in the Persian Gulf to Government of India, December 15, 1900; Government of India to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, November 27, 1903.

If now increased by 30,000 rupees the total debt will be, roughly, 1,60,000 rupees. The liquidation of that sum would occupy three and a-half or four and a-half years approximately, according to whether the monthly deductions from the Sultan's subsidy (86,000 rupees odd) are fixed at 3,000 or 4,000 rupees.

3. Captain Grey recommends the loan, if an adequate *quid pro quo* can be obtained from His Highness, and in that connection suggests the acquisition of the site of the present hospital, which, as the Government of India is aware, is now lent to us rent-free by the Sultan.

Being aware of the views of Government with regard to the Muscat Customs, and especially by the light of Foreign Department letter under reply, I am doubtful whether the bestowal of the hospital premises will be regarded as adequate consideration for a fresh loan.

4. Knowing from my experience of Seyyid Feisal's character that he is more inclined to accept things when placed before him in a cut-and-dried form, I was going to suggest to Government that instead of pressing again in general terms regarding the control of his customs in pursuance of paragraph 3 of your letter, we should make him a definite offer to conduct the Customs at Muscat, Gwadur, and Soor, and to pay him a fixed net sum per annum on account of each, say for Muscat and small outlying ports of—

	Rupees.
Oman	2,00,000
Gwadar	22,000
Soor	18,000
Total	2,40,000

and to pay him, irrespective of receipts, 20,000 rupees monthly. I think this would leave enough margin for expenses and would be enough to tempt him.

We might stipulate that His Highness would furnish the new Customs Superintendent with a list of all outstanding debts due by him and allow a certain amount, say 5,000 rupees per mensem, to be devoted to their systematic liquidation by that official. It should be stipulated, too, that this amount of 2,40,000 rupees would be paid him tentatively for a fixed period, say three years, and after that it would be subject to re-adjustment on our realizing from experience what income the three branches could actually be expected to bring in. We might in making the offer undertake to find suitable employment in the Department for his present Superintendent, who has undoubtedly done good work.

5. From the way His Highness met a recent proposal of mine regarding the Gwadur Customs, six weeks ago, and from my previous knowledge of his sentiments, I cannot but fear that he will obstinately resist all overtures affecting his customs, but the above is a brief statement of the suggestions I was about to submit, and I believe that His Highness would more likely be amenable to a definite and detailed offer of that nature than to any overture in general terms.

6. The above proposals, however, would, I know, require mature consideration at the hands of Government, and meanwhile we are confronted by a request for a fresh loan, which is apparently made urgently and must be dealt with at once.

7. I have before expressed the opinion that until the French flag question is definitely settled and we can see our way clearly, we shall be doing no harm if we give the Sultan a fair amount of rope and keep him committed to us to the extent that we conveniently can.

From this point of view my ideas with regard to the present request for 30,000 rupees are as follows:—

The Sultan will be able to raise that amount elsewhere for such an occasion if he does not get it from us, and I think that if we were to ask for, and accept in return for it, a politically unimportant *quid pro quo*, such as the grant of the hospital site, our subsequent chances of obtaining more substantial concessions would be discounted.

I would therefore advise that Captain Grey be permitted to tell the Sultan that, in view of the interesting occasion with which the request is connected, Government have graciously authorized him to advance His Highness from time to time such money as he may actually require in connection with Seyyid Taimoor's marriage up to a limit of 30,000 rupees in all.

8. This loan will then be a fresh addition to the many favours which we have already heaped upon His Highness, and as soon as Taimoor is married, if the date is not far distant, we should forthwith approach the Sultan with our definite scheme and with more

chances of success; and if we fail to obtain the Customs, we can always fall back upon one of the minor concessions, such as that now suggested by Captain Grey.

I have written the foregoing against time in order to catch the mail, and fear it may be somewhat incoherent in consequence, for which, under the circumstances, I crave indulgence.

Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

Captain Grey to Major Cox.

(Telegraphic.) *Muscat, June* 9, 1904.

SULTAN asks for a loan of 30,000 rupees for Taimoor's marriage, repayable by monthly instalments of 1,000 rupees. Shall I ask for hospital site referred to in letter dated the 7th June, or do you advise something better?

Inclosure 4 in No. 49.

Captain Grey to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Muscat, June* 21, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Sultan has requested me to ask that Government will be graciously pleased to advance him the sum of 30,000 rupees to enable him to meet expenses to be incurred in connection with his son Seyyid Taimur's approaching marriage.

2. His Highness is at present indebted to Government as follows:—

	Rupees.
On account of his steamer (approximately)	1,10,000
On account of a previous loan	15,000
On acount of coal supplied	4,000
Total	1,29,000

He is repaying 5,000 rupees monthly from his subsidy, and asks to be allowed to repay at that rate until clear of the previous loan, and subsequently at 4,000 rupees per mensem.

3. I concur with Major Cox in the opinion expressed in his letter dated the 11th instant, viz., that the question of a *quid pro quo* can be considered later, and as I have nothing to add to his proposals, will now await the orders of Government.

4. In the event of this loan being granted, the Sultan would be glad of the money at an early date; perhaps you would kindly favour me with instructions by telegraph.

Inclosure 5 in No. 49.

Government of India to Major Cox.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Simla, July* 7, 1904.

PLEASE see your communication dated the 11th June, 1904.

The loan of 30,000 rupees has been sanctioned for Sultan, but in consideration of loan, see if Sultan will undertake to refrain from borrowing from anywhere else until such time as his liabilities to us are liquidated. As regards customs, is not your proposed offer of 2,40,000 rupees somewhat low, having regard to the facts stated in your letter dated Muscat, the 15th December, 1900? Please send early a full report by letter, giving details of customs revenues since 1899 or 1894, both in dollars and in rupees.

(Repeated to Captain W. G. Grey.)

Inclosure 6 in No. 49.

Captain Grey to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Muscat, July* 12, 1904.

WITH reference to your letter dated the 9th instant to the address of the Resident in the Persian Gulf, I have the honour to state that His Highness the Sultan has readily given me the proposed assurance in writing, and has asked me once more to express his gratitude to Government for their great kindness and consideration.

2. With regard to the second part of your telegram, the statistics required will take a few days to collect and compile; I hope to forward them with report by next mail.

I have, &c.

Signed) W. G. GREY.

Inclosure 7 in No. 49.

Government of India to Captain Grey.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Simla, July* 20, 1904.

PLEASE refer to your letter dated the 12th July, 1904.

Please send a translation of the undertaking which the Sultan has given.

Inclosure 8 in No. 49.

Captain Grey to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Muscat, July* 26, 1904.

IN compliance with the request contained in your Secret telegram of the 21st instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a translation of the Sultan's undertaking.

2. It will be observed that His Highness has promised more than was asked of him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. G. GREY.

Inclosure 9 in No. 49.

The Sultan of Muscat to Captain Grey.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 27 *Rabi'uth Thani*, 1322 (*July* 12, 1904).

YOUR honoured letter, dated the 12th July, has been received. You ask me for (written) information concerning what I promised you when you kindly told me that I could have the 30,000 rupees loan—that I would not borrow from any but your Government. Well, such is my intention. I will never borrow from any one but your Government, and if you hear of my having done so, let me know. Moreover, I assure you that, whether I am indebted to you or not, I will never borrow from any but your Government; this for your information.

(Signed) FEISUL-BIN-TURKEE.

Inclosure 10 in No. 49.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *August* 15, 1904.

MUSCAT.

We would invite, with reference to your despatch of the 22nd July last,* a reference to the correspondence inclosed with letter of the 21st July last from our Foreign Secretary. Sum of 30,000 rupees has been lent to Sultan of Muscat towards expenses of his son Taimur's marriage; Sultan has given undertaking in writing that he will not borrow elsewhere until he has cleared off his liabilities to us. Loan was granted owing to the urgency of the Sultan's request, and in view of desirability of promoting good relations while negotiations as to management of Customs and as to new Commercial Treaty are in progress.

No. 50.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 12th September, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, September 14, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, September* 12, 1904.

PLEASE refer to my telegram of the 2nd August regarding the Aden delimitation. Strong objection is taken by Turkish Government to line terminating at Sheikh Murad. Proposal that we should be given a lien on the country lying to the south of the Akaba–Kuddam line may become known. Discussion with Porte is prolonged, and we may consequently fail to secure it. Instructions have accordingly been sent by His Majesty's Government to Sir N. O'Conor, authorizing him to accept Jebel Hasisi as the terminus of the line of boundary on condition that we are granted the lien by the Turkish Government.

(Repeated to Aden.)

No. 51.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 14.)

Sir, *India Office, September* 14, 1904.

WITH reference to Mr. Villiers' letter of the 9th August last, on the subject of the Aden boundary delimitation, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to transmit, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, the copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 12th September, as to the maps required for the settlement with the Turkish Government.

It will be observed that the telegram has been repeated by the Viceroy to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

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* Not sent to Foreign Office.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 12, 1904.

ADEN delimitation.

Please refer to the despatch No. 628 from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to Lord Lansdowne of the 3rd August last. The maps which have already been sent, though sufficient as guide to settlement, and correct as far as the boundary is concerned, are only in the rough, and it is possible that in other details they may differ from the final maps which are now being prepared, and which will not be ready for three months. I suggest that it might be well to explain this to Sir N. O'Conor in order to prevent any trouble with Porte arising on presentation of final maps.

(Repeated to British Ambassador, Constantinople.)

No. 52.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated 13th September, relative to the Seistan demarcation.

India Office, September 14, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 13, 1904.

SEISTAN Arbitration.

My telegram of the 2nd instant. Telegram, dated the 5th September, was received on the 7th from MacMahon to the effect that authority to co-operate in demarcation had not reached Afghan Commissioner. MacMahon expressed a fear that Amir, on pretext that he is awaiting information as to water rights, may defer giving requisite authority to his Commissioner. This does not seem to be improbable. I am accordingly addressing Amir, asking him if he has not already sent Afghan Commissioner authority to co-operate in delimitation, to do so at an early date. I am at the same time explaining to his Highness the necessity for the award on the water question.

(Repeated to Sir A. Hardinge and Colonel MacMahon.)

No. 53.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 16.)

Sir, *India Office, September* 15, 1904.

WITH reference to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 30th July relative to Consular guards in Persia, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to request that you will draw Lord Lansdowne's attention to the telegraphic correspondence with the Government of India, noted in the margin.*

In the circumstances Mr. Brodrick proposes, with Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, to approve the proposals of the Government of India stated in the Viceroy's telegram of the 6th ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

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* See Part XIX, Inclosures in No. 169.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 3, 1904.

YOUR telegram of the 12th ultimo: Persian Consular guards.

Proposals with regard to Bunder Abbas, as stated in my telegram of the 6th August, have Sir A. Hardinge's concurrence, and I propose to proceed accordingly. Although it is for Consul at Bunder Abbas that travelling escort is required, arrangement by which men are attached to guard at Bushire, and the necessary reliefs sent periodically from Bushire, is the more convenient.

(Repeated to Tehran.)

No. 54.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 133.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1904.

MR. VAN ROGGEN called here on the 30th ultimo with a letter of introduction from His Majesty's Minister at The Hague, to whom, as recorded in the penultimate paragraph of your despatch No. 133 of the 19th July last, you had recommended him.

He said that he wished to speak of the scheme of Karun irrigation, on which he had recently reported to the Shah. He dilated upon its wonderful possibilities, stating that his object in coming to England had been to interest British financiers in the project, and to enlist the support of His Majesty's Government, who must, he thought, be interested in such a scheme. He hoped that a British or Anglo-Dutch Company might be formed to put the project into execution. This would cost some 500,000*l.*, but the returns would be magnificent. He expressed a strong desire to talk the matter over with Lord Curzon, if an interview could be arranged.

Mr. van Roggen was informed that this was unlikely, as Lord Curzon was not in town and would shortly start for India. As regards his proposal, he was told that His Majesty's Government were, of course, greatly interested in any question connected with that part of Persia, and would always wish to encourage any scheme likely to benefit or to develop the resources of the country. It was understood, however, that the Shah had expressed his determination to keep the undertaking entirely in his own hands, and not to give it to any foreign Company. Presumably, therefore, Mr. van Roggen was speaking on his own behalf, and his suggestion did not emanate from the Persian Government. He replied that this was so; he had no mission or credentials of any kind, except a letter from M. Naus, acquiescing in his departure on leave. But he felt sure that if he could return to Tehran with a Syndicate or Company at his back, assured of the support of His Majesty's Legation, and able to make a definite offer to the Persian Government and a good present to the Shah, his proposal would be accepted. He hoped, as a first step, to raise some 3,000*l.* in order to go back to Ahwaz, accompanied by other engineers, and make a further survey with proper instruments, which would enable him to elaborate the details of his scheme.

In the course of further conversation the question of Karun irrigation was alluded to, and Mr. van Roggen scouted the idea that the water supply in the river would be affected by his irrigation scheme. This, he said, would be carried out entirely with overflow water, which was very abundant at certain times of the year. Finally it was suggested that he should put any proposals he had to make in writing for submission to me. He promised to do so.

On the 1st instant Mr. van Roggen called again and said that, after consideration, he had decided not to trouble Lord Curzon by asking for an interview, as he had little to add to what he had already said. He proposed to start for The Hague that night, and hoped to return to London in a month. It would appear that he had interested some British firm in his scheme, but no particulars could be obtained. It was thought as well to point out to him that, as he no doubt realized, British interests and influence were paramount on the Karun, and that a purely foreign enterprise in those regions could hardly hope to be successful. He replied that he was fully alive to the fact that no scheme could hope for success unless countenanced and approved by His Majesty's Government, but that, no doubt, a British firm or Company could count upon their support. He then left, repeating that he would communicate with this Department in writing, but, up to the present, he has not done so.

On the 3rd instant the Persian Minister at The Hague told Sir H. Howard that Mr. van Roggen had spoken to him of his having called at His Majesty's Legation and of his proposed visit to England. He added that the Persian Government desired to keep the execution of the scheme in their own hands, and that Mr. van Roggen had no official mission, and was simply in Europe on leave of absence.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 55.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

(Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1904.

IN the letter from this Department of the 8th April of last year, correspondence was transmitted to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, respecting the financial assistance which it had been decided to afford to the Persian Government by a loan from Indian funds. Further details with regard to this transaction were furnished in Mr. Hardinge's letter of the 7th May, 1903. It will be within their Lordships' recollection that the Government of India offered to provide a sum not exceeding 300,000*l.* as an immediate advance to the Persian Government, through the Imperial Bank of Persia, but that it was eventually decided to limit the advance to 200,000*l.*, which sum was paid over to the Persian Government under the terms of the Agreement signed on the 8th April of last year.

I transmit to you herewith, by direction of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copies of correspondence with His Majesty's Minister at Tehran, and with the Imperial Bank of Persia,* showing the circumstances in which the advance then made has been completed by the loan of the additional 100,000*l.*, and has thus been raised to 300,000*l.*, the sum originally offered to the Persian Government. As the Lords Commissioners will observe, this transaction has been brought to a conclusion in virtue of an Agreement signed at Tehran on the 2nd instant. The terms of this Agreement, determining the conditions and security on which the additional advance is made, are contained in Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 133 of the 13th July last. It will be seen that they are substantially the same as those of the Arrangement regulating the previous loan in April 1903.

Further particulars with regard to the completion of this transaction will be communicated to their Lordships in due course.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 56.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 17.)

Sir, *India Office, September* 15, 1904.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Villiers' letter of the 24th ultimo, asking for his views on the proposal contained in Sir A. Hardinge's telegram No. 91 of the 23rd August, with a view to the installation of wireless telegraphy between the Perso-Baluch frontier and Seistan.

In reply I am to inclose a copy of a note by the Director-in-chief of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, from which it appears that, though there is little doubt that the installation could be successfully carried out, Sir A. Hardinge's informant has greatly under-estimated the expense.

I am to add that, in a letter recently received, the Government of India were inclined to regard the suggestion as impracticable.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

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* See Part XIX, Nos. 14, 51, 71, 85, 133, 150, 166, 173, 183, 188, 192, 197, and 199; and *ante*, Nos. 5, 7, 8 and 38.

16 N 23

Inclosure in No. 56.

Note by Director-in-chief, Indo-European Telegraph Department.

September 8, 1904.

I HAVE thought it best to give no opinion on this case until I had consulted the naval officer in charge of the Admiralty wireless telegraph stations. I have been able to do this only to-day. The conclusion we have come to is that there is little doubt that wireless telegraphy could be successfully installed between a point in Indian territory near Kohimalik Siah and the Consulate at Nasratabad.

If the scheme has to be carried out it would obviously be necessary to arrange to send out equipments for the two stations which, as far as the experience of experts goes to show, would establish communication with certainty. We would have to avoid any chance of sending out equipments which, when set up, proved unequal to overcome the distance. The cost of this equipment, it is believed, would be in this country at least 1,000*l.* for each station. A fairly powerful oil-engine dynamo and accumulator cells would be required in each equipment, and these are heavy articles to transport with safety on camels for several hundred miles over mountain and desert tracks.

To put up and work the installations two experts would have to be sent out—one for each station. Suitable men are hard to get for similar work in this country. They require to have a knowledge of mechanical and electrical engineering and to be telegraph operators. They would expect a salary of 300*l.* a-year or more in this country, and probably at least 450*l.* abroad. There would be two wooden towers to be constructed about 150 feet in height at each station, and in this country each tower would cost 250*l.* to construct, or 1,000*l.* for the two installations.

Sir Arthur Hardinge, in his telegram of the 23rd August last, quotes 400*l.* as the cost for which the communication by wireless telegraphy might be established, having been so advised by the Officiating Director of Telegraphs at Tehran, who has had no experience of the subject. This estimate of cost, as I have shown, is quite inadequate. From his telegram of the 14th May last to the British Minister at Tehran, his Excellency the Viceroy apparently consulted the Director-General of Telegraphs in India with reference to this question, and the opinion given was that wireless telegraphy was not likely to be practicable. The conclusion I have come to is that the scheme might be carried out with a fair chance of success, but that there are many difficulties attached to it. In any case the cost would appear to be quite disproportionate to the advantages to be gained, more especially as the British Minister holds out hopes that in time the Persian Government will sanction the construction of a telegraph line to connect the two stations.

(Signed) H. A. KIRK.

No. 57.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 17.)

India Office, September 16, 1904.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Villiers' letter of the 13th instant stating that Lord Lansdowne proposes, with Mr. Secretary Brodrick's concurrence, to approve the proposal that Colonel Douglas should visit Laristan this autumn in order to discuss with Captain Gough and Mr. Lorimer the details of the proposed scheme for the establishment of road guards in that region.

In reply, I am to say that Mr. Brodrick concurs in this proposal, on the understanding that no step will be taken which would commit His Majesty's Government to the scheme until the views of the Government of India on the subject have been received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 58.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th September, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, September 16, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 15, 1904.

ADEN delimitation. Your telegrams of the 2nd August and the 12th September. As the Murad line is not now being claimed, I trust that endeavour will be made by His Majesty's Government to secure recognition by Turkish Government of Nawa, Juban, Dthabiani, and Rubeaten as British Amir's territory. Great importance was attached by Intelligence Branch to boundary terminating at Sheikh Murad.

(Repeated to Political Department, Bombay.)

No. 59.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated the 16th instant, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, September 16, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 16, 1904.

ADEN delimitation.

I have received the following telegram, No. 41, dated the 15th September, from Sir N. O'Conor:—

"It will be well for you not to mention Jebel Hasisi to the Turkish Commissioner, as active negotiations are in progress here, and I hope to secure acceptance by Porte of boundary terminating at Murad wells, Turba village and the wells being left on Turkish side of line."

I have sent the following telegram, No. 35, dated the 16th September, to Sir N. O'Conor in reply:—

"Turkish Commissioner, since dispatch of his telegram mentioned in my No. 32, has been expecting Murad wells as terminus. I have not mentioned Hasisi to him."

(Repeated to Secretary of State.)

No. 60.

Foreign Office to M. Geoffray.

Foreign Office, September 19, 1904.

Dear M. Geoffray,

I WRITE to you at Lord Lansdowne's desire to inquire what progress is being made in compiling the list which is to be furnished to the Sultan of Muscat of all subjects of his Highness possessing permits to fly the French flag.

You will no doubt recollect that M. Cambon informed Lord Lansdowne in May 1903, during the discussions which preceded the agreement to refer to arbitration the questions connected with Muscat, that the list would be speedily prepared. We have lately received correspondence from the Government of India, from which it appears that considerable inconvenience is experienced owing to the want of definite information as to the persons who have been specifically authorized by the French Government to fly the French flag, and Lord Lansdowne wishes me to say that he hopes to be furnished on his approaching return with the list promised in May of last year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 61.

Consul McDouall to the Marquess of Lansdowne.— Received September 20.)

(No. 1.)

Mohammerah, August 25, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a Memorandum on the visit of a Russian commercial mission to this town.

I am forwarding a copy of the same to the Political Resident His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. McDOUALL.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Memorandum by Consul McDouall.

PRINCE AMATOUNI and secretary arrived at Mohammerah after visiting Bagdad and Bussorah on the 15th August. The Prince is an Armenian of St. Petersburgh, in the employ of the Russian Ministry of Commerce, and the local authorities had instructions to show him civility. He left on the 20th for Shushter and returns in about twenty days to leave by a homeward-bound Russian steamer then due.

His inquiries were, I understand, directed towards ascertaining the probable openings for trade and as to the names and capital of local firms. He showed samples of Russian piece goods to the local traders, and took samples of the Manchester goods on sale.

He stated that the Russian steamers would in future run every two months from Odessa; but in reply to an inquiry as to the market there for local produce such as linseed, said the Russian customs dues were too high to admit of profit.

He spoke to the Sardar Arfá of putting a Russian steamer on the Karun, who replied that he had tried it and it did not pay. He also said that his present visit was in a friendly, that is unofficial, way, but that he would return later officially.

He had a circular note for 5,000 tomans (850*l.*) from Arbal Jamshid of Tehran, whose Bushire agent is Gholam Husein Kazeruni, of which less than 2,000 tomans had been drawn.

The local Jewish traders representing Manchester firms, exporters of cotton goods, ridicule the idea of Russian cotton goods competing with Manchester goods, as Russian samples are dearer and inferior.

No. 62.

India Office to Foreign Office.—Received September 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of telegrams relative to the proposed Karun irrigation scheme.

India Office, September 19, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *September* 8, 1904.

YOUR telegram of 4th instant: Karun irrigation.

Foreign Office inquire, with reference to moiety of cost, what would be pay and allowances of a suitable officer.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) *September* 18, 1904.

YOUR telegram of 8th instant.

Selected engineer should be an officer of experience whose opinion would carry weight. Pay and allowances, fixed according to standing, might amount to 187*l.* per month in addition to subordinate establishment.

No. 62*.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 99.)

(Telegraphic.) Decode. *Tehran, September* 20, 1904.

REFERRING to your despatch No. 79 of the 14th July, 1903, Persian Government asks whether Bushire harbour survey will involve them in expense.

No. 63.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 58.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 20, 1904.

THE Military Attaché may go to Luristan, as proposed in your telegram No. 97 of the 11th instant, on the subject of the Luristan Road guards, but, until the views of the Government of India have been received, he should be careful not to take any step which would commit His Majesty's Government.

No. 64.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 18th August, relative to Tamb and Abu Musa.

India Office, September 20, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 64.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Bushire, July 15, 1904.

Sir,

IN amplification of my telegram, dated the 22nd June last, intimating the removal of Persian flags from Tamb and Abu Musa Islands, I have the honour to forward, for information, copies of correspondence with the Chief of Shargah on the subject, namely, Residency letter, dated the 11th June, and the reply of the Residency Agent at Shargah, dated the 22nd June.

2. His Majesty's Minister at Tehran has been addressed in the same terms under this Office of to-day's date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. Z. COX.

Inclosure 2 in No. 64.

Major Cox to Sheikh Suggar, Chief of Shargah.

June 11, 1904.

I ADDRESS you as the Head Sheikh of the Jowasmi, regarding the Islands of Abu Musa and Tamb. You will have in mind the recent proceedings of the Persians on those islands.

A discussion has taken place in that connection between our two high Governments, with the result that the Persian Government has undertaken to remove the Persian flags, &c., from the said islands.

I accordingly request you to take the necessary measures for the re-erection of flagstaffs on the islands, and for hoisting on them the special Jowasmi flag described in the Treaty.

His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" is now proceeding to your coast in this connection, and you should make most careful arrangements in regard to all matters affecting these two islands, and should station two men on each of them, whose duty it will be to see to the hoisting and guarding of the flags permanently.

As His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" will be with you, if the men whom you propose to send over for the hoisting and guarding of the flags are ready, you can send them by the ship, after consulting the Captain, and if the old flagstaffs are unserviceable and you wish to put up new ones, Inshallah, the Captain, will assist you in the matter.

Inclosure 3 in No. 64.

Residency Agent, Shargah, to Major Cox.

(Translation.) *June* 22, 1904.

ON the 15th June last, I received your letter, dated the 11th June, inclosing a letter to the Chief of Shargah through the Captain of His Majesty's ship "Sphinx."

As directed by you I delivered the letter to the Chief, in the presence of the Captain, and the man-of-war stayed opposite Shargah for one day to afford assistance in erecting flagstaff on Abu Musa and Tamb Islands. As the flags were not completed till sunset, the ship left Shargah. The Chief then dispatched the flagstaffs in boats of

his subjects. The staffs were erected on the islands, and two men stationed on each island to hoist flags.

The Chiefs and inhabitants of the Pirate Coast are glad and thankful for the steps taken by the British Government for removing the Persian flags from the islands. Their belief has changed, and they are assured that the British Government will protect them against enemies, and will maintain their honour.

The people highly praise the British Government.

No. 65.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 7th September, relative to Persian Gulf piracy.

India Office, September 21, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, September* 7, 1904.

PERSIAN Gulf piracy.

Your telegram of the 17th ultimo.

Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to make representation to Porte stating facts and urging Turkish Government to take energetic measures, without delay, with a view to suppressing these depredations in concert with British ships of war. Your instructions to Resident in Persian Gulf are approved.

No. 66.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 135.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 21, 1904.

I HAVE considered, in communication with the Secretary of State for India, your despatch No. 122 of the 8th instant, relative to the state of Arabistan.

The terms of the note which you addressed to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh on the 24th June are approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 67.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 21st September, reporting that the Turks have seized, in Amiri territory, some Turkish subjects of Shakhab, who had taken up their residence in Amiri territory.

India Office, September 21, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Resident, Aden, to Government of Bombay.

(Telegraphic.) P. *Aden, September* 21, 1904.

REPORT received from Captain Merewether, Political Officer at Dthali, to the effect that Mazoob Habil at Khabar, situated in Amiri territory, was, on the 14th September, surrounded by fifty Turks and fifty fighting Arabs, acting under the orders of the Kaim Mukam of Kataba, and that six Turkish subjects, who had quitted Shakhab and taken up their residence in Amiri territory were seized.

On the previous day the Kaim Mukam had been requested by Merewether to do nothing in the matter, but to write to him, and he would then have things put right; but in spite of this request the Turks took action, as above reported, which has been protested against by the Amir of Dthali.

Fuller report is being sent by letter.

(Repeated to Secretary of State for India, and Government of India, Foreign Department.)

No. 68.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 14th September, relative to quarantine arrangements at Bushire.

India Office, September 22, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, September* 14, 1904.

QUARANTINE at Bushire: Your telegram of the 7th September.

It does not seem necessary to take further action, in view of the telegram of the 8th September, from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran. Instructions to the effect that quarantine on isthmus should remain with authority in charge of quarantine by sea were sent to Sir A. Hardinge on the 12th instant, with reference to his telegram of the 22nd August.

No. 69.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 21st September, relative to the Seistan demarcation.

India Office, September 22, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 21, 1904.

MY telegram of the 13th.

Telegram from MacMahon states that no orders from Ameer had reached Afghan Commissioner up to the 16th instant.

Commissioner has addressed an urgent reference to Cabul, and, pending reply, MacMahon, who has informed Commissioner that Ameer has consented to demarcation, has made arrangements for demarcation of straight line towards Koh-i-Malik Siah to be proceeded with.

No. 70.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 100.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulahek, September* 22, 1904.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 121 of the 8th August and your Lordship's telegram No. 56 of the 30th ultimo, Sir Arthur Hardinge addressed a note to the Persian Government which contained the following sentence:—

"I am to add that His Majesty's Government will take the necessary steps to insure respect for their rights in the event of any attempt on the part of the Persian Government to ignore them."

I have been asked by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh to suggest to your Lordship that the above sentence should be omitted. His Excellency fears that unless this is done the Persian Government will be forced to reply and express the regret that His Majesty's Government have thought fit to insert that sentence, and the question of the meaning of "Customs of Fars and the Persian Gulf" will necessarily have to be reopened.

The argument of the Mushir-ed-Dowleh is that if the sentence is omitted, His Majesty's Government will have gained their point without giving the Persian Government unnecessary offence, and no reply need be sent.

I gather that the Shah objects to the sentence in question as being in the nature of a threat, although his Excellency did not say so in so many words.

I informed the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that I could not personally hold out any hope that it would be omitted, as the sentence was in your Lordship's own words, but I told him that I would submit the matter to your Lordship for instructions.

(Sent to India.)

No. 71.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 22, 1904.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran,* respecting quarantine in the Persian Gulf.

I am to request that Lord Lansdowne may be favoured with Mr. Brodrick's observations on the questions raised by Sir A. Hardinge in the penultimate paragraph of his despatch as to the advisability of appointing European rather than Asiatic doctors, and as to the method of their payment.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ELDON GORST.

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* No. 24.

No. 72.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 22, 1904.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran,* stating that the Persian Government have inquired whether the proposed survey of Bushire Harbour by officers of the Royal Indian Marine will involve them in any expense.

I am to request that Lord Lansdowne may be informed what will be the effect of the arrangements in contemplation as regards the Persian Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 73.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 22, 1904.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, relative to Consular guards in Persia.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in Mr. Brodrick's proposal to approve the proposals of the Government of India, as stated in their telegram of the 6th August.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 74.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 25th August, relative to affairs in the Aden Protectorate.

India Office, September 21, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 74.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bombay Castle, August* 11, 1904.

WITH reference to Mr. Edgerley's letter, dated the 8th April, 1904, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a Confidential letter, dated the 24th July, 1904, from the Political Resident, Aden, and also a copy of this Government letter of to-day's date, in reply thereto regarding a proposal made by General Mason to organize an expedition against the Subaihi in October next for harbouring the murderer of Captain Warneford.

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* No. 62*.

Inclosure 2 in No. 74.

Brigadier-General Mason to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.) *Aden, July* 24, 1904.

WITH reference to your letter, dated the 15th instant, I have the honour to inform you that, on the day following that of the murder of Captain Warneford, Mr. Bury, extra Assistant Resident, who happened to be in Lahej at the time, proceeded to Am Riga, the place of the murder, with fifteen men of the Abdali; and on inquiries there, learnt that the murderer, Saleh Ba Haidera, had taken refuge with the Mansuri (a section of the Subaihi). The Mansuri Sheikh was written to about the matter, and the surrender of Saleh Ba Haidera was demanded, but the Sheikh denied that the man was in his territory, or that he had any knowledge of his whereabouts. Letters were then addressed to all the Subaihi Sheikhs, warning them against sheltering Saleh Ba Haidera, and calling upon them to assist Government in arresting him. Some time was allowed to elapse awaiting the result of the above letters; in the meantime, the murderer was reported to be in Turkish territory.

2. At the commencement of May last, Major-General Maitland issued a Proclamation offering a reward of 2,000 rupees for the capture of Saleh Ba Haidera; also a reward of 1,000 rupees to any person who would give information of such a nature as would lead to his arrest, but so far this has had no result, and I have been informed from a reliable source that the murderer is now being harboured in the Subaihi country.

3. On my recent visit to Dthala, Captain Merewether informed me that the surrounding tribes are closely watching and discussing what action Government will take with regard to the sheltering of Saleh Ba Haidera by the Mansuris and the Subaihis; further, the general opinion here, expressed on all sides, is that some decisive action should be taken to avenge the murder of Captain Warneford. I myself am strongly of opinion that it would be advisable to severely punish the Subaihis for giving an asylum to the murderer, as well as for their continual raiding of caravans on the Kafila route. I may state that I am supported in this opinion by the late Resident, Major-General Maitland; I would therefore ask that I may be permitted to proceed against the Subaihis with a punitive force in October next, when the cool weather will permit of the free movement of troops. I feel confident that, if the Subahis receive the severe punishment which they deserve at our hands, it will have a most beneficial effect on all the other tribes.

Inclosure 3 in No. 74.

Government of Bombay to Brigadier-General Mason.

(Confidential.) *Bombay Castle, August* 11, 1904.

WITH reference to paragraph 3 of your Confidential letter, dated the 24th July, 1904, I am directed to state that the Governor in Council finds it impossible to support, in its present somewhat vague state, the proposal to organize an expedition against the Subaihi tribe in October next, and that there seems to be room for further inquiry as to the whereabouts of Saleh ibn Haidera. The lines on which you might, therefore, proceed with advantage to ascertain the whereabouts of this murderer seem to the Governor in Council to be to proclaim that the British Government must hold the Mansuri tribe, as being the tribe of which Saleh Ba Haidera is a native, responsible primarily for his non-production, if not for his original escape; that the British Government demand that the murderer be given up by the Mansuris, or that the Sheikh of the Mansuris should come in and give satisfactory proof of Saleh's escape from his territory; and that, if he has escaped, the British Government will require reparation from the Mansuri tribe, and will, if necessary, exact such reparation for the outrage as may be decided on.

2. As remarked above, your proposal for an expedition against the Subaihis is, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, far too vague for acceptance as it stands. As you are aware, there are many tribes composing the Subaihi, and it is therefore necessary to know the precise scope of your proposals. I am to point out that General Maitland's intention, as explained in his letter, dated the 5th December, 1903, was to send an expedition against one particular section of the Subaihi tribe, viz., the Basus,

and that this proposal was made with the specific object of enforcing protection of our trade routes. No such definite object, as far as can be gathered, appears to be contemplated by you in the present instance; and without clearly indicating to the tribes the responsibility for failure to discharge which an expedition is being sent against them, no definite purpose will be served by sending one. I am accordingly to request Government may be favoured with more precise details of your proposals and with clearer reasons for their adoption.

No. 75.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 1st instant, relative to the Seistan arbitration.

India Office, September 22, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 75.

The Ameer of Afghanistan to Government of India.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *2nd Jamadi-us-Sani, 1322 H. (August 14, 1904).*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that as regards the Naizar case, I gave in my letter dated the 16th March last full particulars, and stated that the settlement of the case was conditional on certain matters.

Your Excellency has supported the letter of his Excellency Lord Curzon dated the 13th April last, and without attending to the wording and purport of my said friendly letter, your Excellency has made use of words which are not mentioned in it. This has caused me regret.

My friend, I was ready not to depart in any way from the decision and settlement of General Goldsmid, and not to allow a piece of land from the boundary under dispute, which had been laid down in the map by General Goldsmid, to be taken by the Persians.

In my above-mentioned letter I communicated to Lord Curzon my ideas and views on this subject, stating that I intended to renew my claim against the Persians hereafter, and, therefore, it was necessary that no boundary marks and pillars should be erected on that boundary; and that no language should be used in the arbitration given by Colonel McMahon, which, on my renewing my claim, might become a sufficient "Sanad" to the Persians.

But in view of the relations of friendship and union existing between the illustrious British Government and the God-granted Government, I feel certain that in the same way that I consider the illustrious British Government and the Government of Afghanistan as sharers of benefits and losses in such external political affairs, your Excellency will also consider the benefits resulting to the Government of Afghanistan as being benefits accruing to the illustrious Government, and, as far as possible, will not allow the benefits of Afghanistan to be lost.

Your Excellency and Lord Curzon insist that the settlement of this matter should be made according to the wishes of the Persians, and that the settlement of Goldsmid, which, according to Lord Curzon's own letter, had been accepted and approved for so many years, should be laid aside. Although the high officials of the exalted Government of India have not clearly informed me of the benefits which they have in their mind in this matter, and I have not understood what the Government of India find to be beneficial to Afghanistan in such a concession, and in the permanence of such a

* Ameer Habibulla Khan.

settlement and the renewal of boundary demarcation, yet as I adhere to this my idea that the high officials of the exalted Government of India will not allow the benefits of Afghanistan to be lost, and that in such a concession, they have in view the benefits of both the exalted Governments, I have, therefore, given up what I had in my mind about this matter, and I now give my consent to the settlement and arbitration of Colonel McMahon, which I had before approved under certain conditions, and I accept the distribution of the said frontier according to Colonel McMahon's proposal.

But as I find the word irrigation both in your Excellency's and Lord Curzon's letter, I desire to know the details about this irrigation, as regards its nature and extent. Further, all is well.

No. 76.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 23.)

Sir, *India Office, September 22, 1904.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Villiers' letter of the 13th September, forwarding a copy of Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 148 of the 15th ultimo, relative to the attitude of the Persian Government towards the proposal for connecting Henjam by telegraph with Bunder Abbas.

In reply, I am to say that Mr. Brodrick concurs in Lord Lansdowne's proposal to approve Sir A. Hardinge's language and action as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 77.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 23.)

Sir, *India Office, September 23, 1904.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to invite the attention of the Marquess of Lansdowne to the telegram from the Resident, Aden, of the 21st instant, reporting a violation of the Amiri frontier by the Turkish authorities at Kataba.

Mr. Brodrick would propose, for Lord Lansdowne's consideration, that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople should be instructed at once to make a serious representation to the Turkish Government on the subject, and to request them to send such orders as will insure that their local authorities in future, in such cases, will address the Amir of Dthali, or, if necessary, the British officer at present stationed in Dthali, as to any demands they may have to make, and will refrain themselves from taking any action beyond the frontier.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 78.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Grant Duff.

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September 23, 1904.*

PORTS of Fars and Persian Gulf:

You should ascertain Sir A. Hardinge's views; but there seems to be no reason for omitting the sentence mentioned in your telegram No. 100 of 22nd September.

Refer to Sir A. Hardinge's telegram No. 91 of 31st August for explanation given to Grand Vizier.

No. 79.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 23, 1904.

RESIDENT at Aden's telegram of the 21st instant: Violation of Amir's frontier.

Make serious representations requesting Turkish Government to refrain from taking any action beyond the frontier, and to telegraph such orders to their local authorities as will insure their addressing the Amir of Dthali, or, if necessary, the British officers stationed there in all such cases.

No. 80.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 17th September, relative to the affairs of Dthali.

India Office, September 23, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 17, 1904.

WE would invite reference to our despatch, dated the 21st July last.

Report has been received from Government of Bombay, in whose views we concur, to the effect that the idea of our withdrawing from Dthali is causing considerable agitation to the Amir, who is preparing to enter into relations with the Turks, so as to secure a refuge with them if we withdraw.

Government of Bombay consider that withdrawal would be disastrous to our prestige, and for many years to come would seriously militate against our interests. They therefore urge that, as soon as possible, assurances should be given that, at any rate for some considerable time, we have no intention of quitting Dthali. This assurance, they believe, will have a pacifying effect on the whole countryside (which is at present doubtful as to what we really intend to do), besides quietening the Amir of Dthali.

(Repeated to Government of Bombay, Political Department.)

No. 81.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated the 23rd September, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, September 23, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 23, 1904.

ADEN delimitation.

I have received the two following telegrams from Sir N. O'Conor:—

Telegram No. 42, dated the 20th September:—

"Grand Vizier has promised me that instructions shall be sent to-day to the Turkish Commissioner, authorizing him to accept line terminating at Murad, on condition that Turks remain in possession of Turba and wells. It should be made clear that we accept this arrangement only on the understanding that the conditions and reserves specified in the Memorandum presented to the Porte on the 11th August are agreed to."

Telegram No. 43, dated the 22nd September:—

"My No. 42. Instructions to Commissioner require approval of Sultan, so Grand Vizier was unable to send them as promised; he states, however, that he has no doubt of their being approved."

(Repeated to Secretary of State for India.)

No. 82.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 102. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulahek, September* 24, 1904.

THE Heshmat-ul-Mulk.

See my telegram No. 6 of the 11th January, 1904.

Yesterday evening the Heshmat sent to inform me that he has confidentially learnt from a High Court official that the Shah intends keeping him here indefinitely as hostage, without, however, depriving him of the hereditary Governorship of Seistan. He earnestly hopes that His Majesty's Government will support him and have the Yamin removed, as he states that the latter is doing all he can to oust him.

I venture to hope that your Lordship will allow me to insist on the return of the Heshmat to Seistan at an early date, and on the Yamin's removal, as he is no friend of ours. He will continue to be a centre of anti-British intrigue if he is allowed to remain in Seistan after the return of the Heshmat.

The Heshmat is most anxious that the information above quoted should not appear to come from him.

Unless I can give a strong message to the Persian Government, I do not think that the Heshmat will be allowed to return.

The Shah is already suspicious of our action in Seistan, and the Grand Vizier is uncompromising.

(Sent to India.)

No. 83.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 348.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 24, 1904.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 286 of the 19th April, I transmit herewith copy of a letter from the India Office,* inclosing correspondence from the Government of India on the subject of the murder of the Bahreinese by members of the Behaih tribe.

The information obtained by the Officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf is to the effect that the persons who were reported by the Turkish Government in February last to have been killed in an encounter with Turkish troops were not those actually concerned in the outrage, but that, on the contrary, the offenders are still at large in Turkish territory.

In view of the continued failure of the Turkish Government to exact any reparation for the murders, there seems no reason for further delaying the representation which your Excellency was instructed to make in my despatch No. 132 of the 12th April last, and which was to the effect that His Majesty's Government can no longer restrain the Sheikh of Bahrein from resorting to such steps as he may think necessary for the purpose, though they will use their best endeavours to insure that

* No. 35.

he shall take no action against the Behaih as long as that tribe remain in territory recognized as Turkish.

I have accordingly to request that you will make the representation already proposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 84.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 735.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 20, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that Nouri Pasha has been dismissed from his post as Vali of Bussorah, and also from that of Commandant of the forces in that province.

Though Nouri Pasha had been occasionally obstructive in commercial matters, yet he did not show any disposition to intervene in the delicate political affairs of the Persian Gulf. The post has been filled, for the present, by the temporary appointment of Fahri Pasha, who was recently named Chief of the Staff of the Sixth (Bagdad) Army Corps, having been employed on the General Staff at Constantinople after a course of instruction in Germany. He is a smart and energetic officer, and his departure on the 13th instant from Bagdad for his new post probably indicates the adoption of active measures. As, however, he is accompanied by General Muhammad Pasha Daghestani, who, the Minister of War has informed the Military Attaché of this Embassy, has been specially selected to deal with the fresh disturbances which have broken out, apparently in connection with Sadun Pasha and the Muntefik Arabs (see my despatch No. 722 of the 13th instant), it is probable that the efforts of the new Vali, whether Fahri Pasha or a permanent titulaire, will at first be directed towards a thorough suppression of the revolting tribes. Muhammad Pasha Daghestani is the nephew of the celebrated Circassian Chief, Schamyl, who resisted the Russians so long in their conquest of the Caucasus. He was once in high favour at the Palace, but for many years past he has been exiled to Bagdad, where he is looked upon as the only fighting General in the Sixth Corps. In spite of the comparative failure of his action against Sadun Pasha last winter, as reported to your Lordship at the time, the Minister of War seems to think Muhammad Pasha an excellent man for the work for which he has been selected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 85.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 743.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 21, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 476 of the 18th June, in which it is mentioned that Moussa Bey and other notorious exiles had been moved from Medina, I have now the honour to report that His Majesty's Consul at Damascus informs me that both the notorious Kurdish Chief, Moussa Bey, and Sheikh Abdul Kader, the eldest son of the late Sheikh Obeidullah, have been living in a retired manner in the neighbourhood of Damascus for some time, though they do not appear to be under any kind of restraint or police supervision

It is stated that Abdul Kader will shortly be exiled to Tripoli in Africa, while there is some talk that Moussa Bey, who is in very indifferent health, will be given Government employ, possibly in the gendarmerie. I will, of course, take care that he shall not be placed in any such position where his evil influence could again allow itself to be felt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 86.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 744.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 21, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a copy of a telegram, which I sent to Mr. Fitzmaurice last night respecting the Aden frontier question.

Your Lordship will perceive from this telegram that I am not without hope, as a result of my recent negotiations with the Sublime Porte, of persuading the Imperial Government to accept the Kuwah-Mourad line and the conditions demanded by us as to the north-east frontier, but also to admit the reservation of the Subaihi rights to the Akkama-Kuddam line as against cession of the territory to another Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 87.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir C. MacDonald.

(No. 180.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 26, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 246 of the 11th ultimo explaining the manner in which a friendly message from His Majesty's Government was conveyed to the Atabeg-i-Azam during his Highness' visit to Japan.

I approve your action in the matter as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 88.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.—(Communicated by India Office, September 27.)

(Secret.)
My Lord, *India Office, September* 23, 1904.

I HAVE considered your Secret letter, dated the 21st July last, on the subject of the revision of our Treaty arrangements with the Amir of Dthala.

2. In my Secret despatch of the 1st April last I indicated that, in my view, British interference with the tribes of the Aden Hinterland should be restricted to the minimum necessitated by the obligations towards the Turkish Government arising from the demarcation of the boundary. In my subsequent Secret despatch of the 15th July last I again expressed my views upon this subject, pointing out that the protection of the trade routes was one of the duties common to all the tribes which the British Government must be prepared to enforce. I have considered the proposals now submitted for my approval subject to these considerations.

3. The draft, except in certain particulars, to which I will refer later, appears to me to be consistent with the principles indicated in my despatches referred to above. Articles I and V appear to embody, with some additional detail, the provisions of the existing Agreement with the Amir. Articles II, III, and IV are analogous to the Protectorate Treaties with the other tribes. To Articles VI, VII, VIII, and X, I see no objection. There remains Article IX.

4. With regard to this Article, while I approve your proposal to ear-mark a monthly sum of 100 dollars for the maintenance by the Amir of a force to assist him in carrying out the obligations imposed on him by the Treaty, I see no reason for relieving the Amir from the responsibility for the use to be made of this force, nor for placing it at the disposal of the Resident. The words "to be employed in such manner and at such place as the Resident may desire" should therefore be omitted, and in order to insure the proper application of the stipend granted for this purpose, it should be stipulated that the stipend is to be paid "so long as this force is maintained in a state of efficiency to the satisfaction of the Resident."

5. A copy of Article IX, showing the alterations which I consider desirable, is inclosed. Subject to these modifications, I approve the draft Treaty.

6. You further propose, as a temporary measure, to retain a British officer and a small body of troops at Dthala. You explain that, for the purposes of demarcation of the frontier to the north-east, it is essential that a British officer should keep in touch with the Upper Yaffai and other tribes in that direction, and that it is necessary, at any rate for a time, to give the Amir of Dthala moral support and guidance in carrying out the obligations placed upon him by the demarcation of his territory. I accept the proposal, but I desire that after the expiry of one year you will report if there still remains any real necessity for maintaining an officer and his escort at Dthala.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Revised Draft Treaty, Article IX.

TO assist him in carrying out the obligations imposed by this Treaty the said Amir, on behalf of himself and his successors, engages to maintain a force of fifty men, or such less number as the Resident may agree to. So long as this force is maintained in a state of efficiency to the satisfaction of the Resident, the British Government agree to pay to the said Amir Shaif-bin-Sef-bin-Hadi-bin-Hasan, and to his successor or successors, a monthly sum of 100 dollars, the half of which is 50 dollars, this subsidy to be in addition to that mentioned in Article VIII.

No. 89.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Grant Duff.

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 27, 1904.

HASHMAT-UL-MULK. Your telegram No. 102 of the 24th September.

Unless the Persian Government are likely to comply with your request, the step you suggest would be undesirable.

Please let me know Sir A. Hardinge's views.

No. 90.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 27th September, relative to the violation of Amiri territory by a Turkish force.

India Office, September 27, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Resident, Aden, to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 27, 1904.

YOUR telegram of the 26th September.

Report on circumstances of the Dthali case was sent to Government of Bombay by last mail. A strong protest has been addressed by Political Officer to the Kaimakam, in accordance with orders which I sent to him immediately on receipt of his report of the incident. Latter's reply has not yet been received.

(Repeated to Secretary of State for India, and Political Department, Bombay.)

No. 88*.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 519.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 26, 1904.

IN the inclosed article the "Dépêche Coloniale" reverts once more to the subject of the French claims to Sheikh Saïd, and urges the Government to take advantage of the understanding with England to secure its restoration to the French flag.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 88*.

Extract from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of September 26, 1904.

LA Commission chargée de délimiter l'hinterland d'Aden et des possessions Turques de l'Yemen vient de terminer ses travaux; les cartes dressées par les Commissaires n'ayant pas encore été livrées à la publicité, j'ignore quelles sont les frontières attribuées à l'Angleterre, celles concédées à la Turquie; mais en ce qui concerne notre Colonie de Cheick Saïd, très proche voisine de la zone délimitée, je ne puis me faire la moindre illusion; assurément les Commissaires Turcs n'ont pas manqué de l'englober dans leur lot, l'occupant impunément depuis 1872; et, d'autre part, malgré l'entente cordiale, il est certain que les Commissaires Anglais se sont absolument désintéressés d'une question qu'ils avaient tout intérêt à laisser en l'état, Cheick Saïd ayant été annexé au Vilayet de Moka à l'instigation de l'Angleterre.

Cette occupation de notre Colonie du Bab-el-Mandeb, timide d'abord, semble aujourd'hui être définitive; ce furent en 1871—sorte d'avant-garde—les tribus Arabes Messalkas et Soubeych, poussées par Mohammed Réchid, Gouverneur du Hedjaz, qui vinrent inquiéter les établissements de la maison Rabaud et Bazin; deux mois après, Soliman Bey, Caïmacam de Moka, sur l'ordre de Mohammed Ali, Gouverneur-Général de l'Yemen, débarquait à Tourba une expédition qui comprenait 200 irréguliers Arabes et cinquante réguliers Turcs; le "Bruat" envoyé par le Gouvernement Français obligea Soliman et sa troupe à se rembarquer.

Le 14 Décembre, 1871, les Capitaines Michel et Souchon, représentants de la maison Rabaud et Bazin, rentrèrent en France avec tout leur personnel, et les Turcs, de nouveau, envahirent notre Colonie; la corvette Ottomane "Sedil-Bahar" débarqua des réguliers, qui, cette fois, ne se contentèrent plus de camper dans les ruines de Tourba, mais construisirent une caserne fortifiée sur l'un des contreforts du Djebel-Menhali Eïka.

En 1884 le Gouvernement Français, sur la demande de François Delonele, manifesta l'intention de rééditer l'expédition du "Bruat," mais voulant se renseigner sur l'importance de Cheick Saïd avant de risquer un acte d'énergie, le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères envoya sur place une Commission qui débarqua à Aden, où elle se documenta, paraît-il, auprès des autorités Anglaises; son rapport conclut à l'abandon pur et simple de tous nos droits sur une Colonie "dont les principales productions étaient des rochers calcinés et du sable." Et dès lors, assurés de ne pas être inquiétés, les Turcs ne se gênèrent plus.

Le Colonel Djabar Effendi, envoyé par le Pacha d'Hodeïda, fit démolir ce qui restait encore des établissements Français, fit sauter le petit fort élevé par les Capitaines Souchon et Michel sur l'îlot de Cheick Malou, et, aidé d'un officier Anglais, construisit les ouvrages fortifiés que le voyageur, longeant en paquebot la côte Arabique, peut aisément distinguer à la jumelle. Depuis quatre ans un bureau télégraphique, installé sur le Djebel-Menhali, reçoit les télégrammes de l'Yemen et les transmet à Périm au bureau de l'Eastern Telegraph Company.

L'an dernier, enfin, la garnison fut renforcée de 700 hommes, ce qui en porte l'effectif actuel à 950 exactement, répartis entre la caserne, le fort et les fortins élevés par Djabar Effendi et l'officier Anglais. Ces ouvrages sont congrûment armés: le grand fort, du côté de Périm, de deux grosses pièces de siège et de quatre canons de moindre calibre; dans la caserne il y a deux pièces de 80 et une petite pièce de montagne; chacun des fortins a reçu deux pièces de 80.

La relève se fait régulièrement tous les six mois; elle est assuré par la garnison de Thès, chef-lieu administratif de la région, et vient à Cheick Saïd en quatre étapes: de Thès à Moka, de Moka à Dobbah, de Dobbah à Cataha, et de Cataha à Cheick Saïd.

C'est, on le voit, l'occupation paisible de gens qui se sentent bien chez eux et savent, par de nombreuses années d'impunité, qu'on ne songera pas à venir les déranger.

Pour rendre hommage à la vérité, je dois constater que cette prise de possession ne s'effectua pas sans de platoniques protestations de la France, protestations auxquelles la Porte opposa toujours la force d'inertie; il y eut des interpellations à la Chambre, un vote même affirma "les droits imprescriptibles de la France sur le territoire de Cheick Saïd . . . ."; il y eut aussi la déclaration d'un Ministre venant solennellement dire à la Tribune que "le Gouvernement n'abandonnerait pas un pouce de notre domaine Colonial." Et les Turcs n'en continuèrent pas moins à occuper Cheick Saïd.

Pourtant, faudrait-il à notre diplomatie un si grand effort pour revendiquer notre Colonie du Bab-el-Mandeb? A l'heure où les Anglais sont en train de faire main basse sur tout ce qui est à leur convenance en Orient et en Extrême-Orient, ils auraient vraiment mauvaise grâce à nous chicaner sur la possession de Cheick Saïd, et je ne doute pas qu'avec un peu de diplomatie on arriverait aisément à faire entendre raison à nos récents amis; dès lors la Turquie, ne se sentant plus soutenue, s'empresserait sans contrainte, sans que nous eussions besoin de déplacer le moindre cuirassé, d'évacuer ce Gibraltar de la Mer Rouge qui nous appartient et que nos gouvernants ont l'impérieux devoir de conserver à la France.—G. Presseq-Rolland.

No. 91.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 26th September, relative to the violation of Amiri territory by a Turkish force.

India Office, September 27, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *September* 26, 1904.

WE have received a report from Resident at Aden to the effect that Habil-al-Kuba, village in neighbourhood of Kataba, situated 3 miles within the demarcated boundary, was surrounded on the 14th September by an armed force, in spite of fact that Political Officer at Dthala had previously objected, and six Turkish subjects residing in village were seized and removed. Resident has been requested to furnish report of circumstances, and in meantime, if he has not already done so, to make protest officially, through Political Officer at Dthala to Turkish local authorities. Incident may be of assistance to Sir N. O'Conor in securing from Porte full settlement of boundary question. Government of Bombay suggest that it should be made subject of a strong representation to Porte.

No. 92.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulahek, September* 28, 1904.

FOLLOWING telegraphic message received to-day from His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed:—

On the 21st September the Governor-General stated that the Heshmat-ul-Mulk will not be allowed to return to Seistan; a special man is to be sent from Tehran, as the Governorship is not to be given to either of his sons.

(Copy sent to Seistan, India, and Sir A. Hardinge.)

No. 93.

Imperial Bank of Persia to Foreign Office.—(Received September 29.)

Sir, 25, *Abchurch Lane, London, September* 28, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State (in case it should have escaped the notice of the Foreign Office), a translation of an article in "L'Étoile Belge" of the 13th instant on Belgian influence in Persia, founded on information communicated to the newspaper by M. Hennebicq, a Belgian lawyer in the service of the Persian Government.

The whole article seems to deserve attention, as showing the great energy and success with which the Belgians are exploiting Persia and occupying administrative posts therein, while it is obvious that both in Persia and China the Belgians are frequently utilized by Russia to veil or conceal her political and commercial schemes.

The Directors of this bank would specially direct attention to the statement in the article that the Persian Government is about to undertake irrigation works on a large scale on the Karun River, the plans for which have been prepared by a Dutch engineer in the Shah's service. It is quite certain that the Shah has neither the money nor the will to undertake such works, which I have several times in public speeches urged on

English financiers as a most satisfactory and profitable investment for their capital. But the Shah may be quite willing to sell the Concession for such a scheme to foreign capitalists, Belgian or Russian, or both, in which case there would be a rapid increase of Russian influence in Southern Persia.

The Karun irrigation works, if undertaken, should be constructed by England alone within her legitimate sphere of influence, and by the aid of the large experience of her engineers in Egypt and India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEPEL GRIFFIN.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Article in the "Étoile Belge" of September 13, 1904.

(Translation.)

BELGIAN INFLUENCE IN PERSIA. REFORMS ACCOMPLISHED OR PROJECTED. SOME DETAILS. THE NEXT VISIT OF THE SHAH TO EUROPE.

IT is not without feelings of legitimate pride that we remark how considerable is Belgian influence exercised abroad.

A few days ago we announced the departure of Belgian officers for the Argentine Republic, where they are called to carry out important reforms. Have we not also officers of our army in Macedonia, where they are reorganizing the "gendarmerie" service? Do we not see landing here contingents of young Chinamen coming to learn the French language, and to study the great progress made in scientific, industrial, and commercial spheres?

We have also several of our fellow-countrymen in Persia, where they have accomplished, under the auspices of the Persian Power, important reforms for the greater profit of that vast Empire, which, until the last few years, had been rather hostile to progress and civilization. To-day Persia, thanks to the Belgians, one may say, is being transformed, its institutions and its laws are being modified, and excellent productive and salutary work has already been accomplished. Our compatriots are also very well received at Court, and the greater part have managed to obtain splendid positions.

* * * * * *

Here is a list of Belgians in Persia who occupy some of the chief Government posts at Tehran, the capital:—

M. Naus, Minister of the Customs, Postal Department, and Mint. He is also Treasurer-General.

M. José Hennebicq, Legal Adviser to the Government, member of the Chief Council of Public Instruction, Professor at the School of Political Science.

Engineer de Brucq, General Director of Bridges and Highways.

M. Dascher, General Director of Agriculture.

M. Engels, Director of the Mint, and at present negotiating for a renewal of his contract.

M. Lavers, Secretary of the Customs and Post Office Department.

M. de Corninck, Chief of those who advise the Foreign Minister.

M. Ternen, Statistician to the Customs Office.

MM Vincent and de Munck, Liquidators of the Belgian Glass Works, Sugar Works, and Gas Factory.

At Tabreez: M. Priem, Director of Customs for the Province of Azerbadzah. The hereditary Prince lives at Tabreez, and is Governor of the province.

At Meshed: M. Castaigne, the Director-General of Customs for Khorassan.

At Bushire: M. Dambrain, the Director-General of Customs for the Southern Provinces.

And lastly, M. Heynssens is Director-General of the Customs for the Caspian shores in the Northern provinces.

That is a list of our compatriots who have the chief positions in Persia.

We have no doubt that their families will learn with pleasure that all are in perfect health, and do very easily the task confided to them, which is not always a grateful one.

In fact, M. Priem had to flee from Tabreez on account of the menacing attitude of the populace, who would not bend to the reforms introduced under the Persian financial régime. A very energetic intervention was necessary before the disorders were repressed. All is now as quiet as formerly, and to-day M. Priem acquits himself of his task without any fear of reprisals.

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People at Tehran always welcome strangers, and particularly Belgians, who, by the way, are under the special protection of the Shah, who never misses an opportunity of showing them kindness, consideration, and esteem. Our fellow-countrymen are often received at Court, and are invited to all Royal fêtes.

This result is chiefly due to the Persian Minister in Belgium, Sad-ed-Dowleh, Mirza Jevad Khan, who has been for some time in Tehran, where he is kept by recent events, and who is the intimate adviser of both the Sovereign and the new Grand Vizier, Ein-ed-Dowleh. Quite recently the portfolio of the Foreign Office was offered to this diplomatist, but he refused, preferring to retain his post at Brussels, which he will probably soon join.

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The new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mochir-ed-Dowleh, is also, luckily, very favourably disposed towards Belgian expansion in Persia. His valuable aid and assistance have been won over to our side. The chief of the Persian Foreign Office is a man of very great worth. The School of Political Science was founded by him. It is here that M. José Hennebicq, the well-known Bruxellois barrister, is a Professor.

M. T'Serstevens, our new Minister to the Persian Court, leaves no stone unturned to help Belgian officials, and, although he has only just succeeded M. de Groote, he has by his tact and good offices, made himself liked by all members of the Belgian Colony.

* * * * * *

Two words about the new Grand Vizier, Prince Ein-ed-Dowleh. Absolutely devoted to the present Dynasty Katchar, he has proved himself to be very energetic, and great and useful financial reforms are entirely due to him, the most complex problem in Persia. Ein-ed-Dowleh is also studying another great question, viz., taxation reform. All that is done with Belgian help, and the Belgians are introducing the latest reforms in the various departments, chiefly economic.

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We have lately had an opportunity of interviewing M. J. Hennebicq, who has come to Europe for a few months, and is at present in Brussels.

M. de Favereau, Minister of Foreign Affairs, before he went away for his holidays had a long conference with M. Hennebicq, of which the chief subject was the part played by our compatriots in Persia.

M. Hennebicq has been in Tehran for three years and a-half. He says that the new Customs system, which is the work of our compatriots, brings in annually an excess of several millions over the former revenue under the old system.

The Persian Government is at present engaged in two projects of the highest importance: the transformation of the Caspian port, Enzeli, the chief one, for it is the focus of the lines of communication with Europe; and to the development of the country in the south of Persia on the banks of the Kharson (? Karun). There are immense tracts of land which in olden times were irrigated by a system of canals, traces of which are found at the present day. These lands will regain their lost fertility, thanks to the works which the Persian Government intends to execute, and which have been carefully thought out by a specialist, M. Graadt van Roggen, a Dutch engineer in the Shah's service.

It is also important to note that since his last visit to Europe, Mouzaffer-ed-Din has encouraged teaching by the creation of numerous scholastic establishments in every province of his vast Empire.

Thus, besides primary schools, there are at Tehran several special schools. We have already spoken of the School of Political Science, and will now mention a Polytechnic Institute.

There is also the School of the French Alliance, and that of the American Mission. To-day there are two great banks, the Imperial (State) Bank of Persia, which alone can issue notes, and the Banque d'Escompte et de Prêt Russe, under the control of M. Grube, Private Adviser to the Tsar Nicholas II.

We asked M. Hennebicq why, in his opinion, it has not been possible to instal certain Belgian industries in Persia.

There have been many attempts, none of which have been successful.

Belgian manufacturers and merchants, declared M. Hennebicq, could find plenty of markets for their products. For that it is not necessary to establish firms. A simple commercial agent would suffice, if he were provided with powers to receive orders from seeing samples, and would confine himself to transmitting the orders to the firms he represented. That would be the way to avoid the considerable expenses which have hitherto prevailed against attempts in this direction.

We announce, in conclusion, that next year the Shah will again visit Europe, and that he will come to Brussels and Ostend.

No. 94.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulahek, September* 29, 1904.

THE Hashmat-ul-Mulk.

See my telegram No. 102 of the 24th instant.

To-day I received the following from Sir Arthur Hardinge:—

I understood from the Viceroy in the Gulf that the Government of India was prepared to take forcible steps, and even to occupy Nasratabad, in order to support the Hashmat-ul-Mulk, and I do not think that we can acquiesce in his deposition. It may be sufficient for the present that your Lordship should address a strong remonstrance to the Persian Government, pointing out that, after all the efforts which we have made on behalf of Persian interests in Seistan, and in defiance of our repeated representations, it would be a highly unfriendly act to remove the Hashmat.

Mr. Grant Duff might add that a disturbance of the *status quo* on our frontier would make it harder to meet the wishes of His Majesty the Shah in the matter of the withdrawal at an early date of Colonel McMahon and his force from Seistan. It will probably have a good effect if we intimate that the McMahon Mission will remain until the return of the Hashmat, and that we may have to reconsider the pledge given last year as to its being kept on the actual border of Seistan.

We might inform the Persian Government that we should object to the transfer of the Acting Governorship, which is now vested in the Hashmat's son, to any Tehran official, but I do not know that we need commit ourselves to the removal of the Yamin.

(Copy sent to India.)

No. 95.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Gulahek, October* 1, 1904.

THE Mushir-ed-Dowleh asked me privately to-day, at the end of an interview, whether I was of opinion that the Persian Government would be well advised in publishing a declaration of neutrality in the Russo-Japanese war. He said that the Russian Government might ask permission to utilize some Persian port as a coaling station. In reply, I said that as the war would probably last for some time such a declaration might be prudent, but he must clearly understand that what I said carried no authority, and that I could only give him an unofficial opinion.

The Persian Government has, I suspect, been sounded on the subject by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 96.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1904.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of yesterday, inclosing a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran respecting the Hashmat-ul-Mulk, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you draft of a telegram which it is proposed to send to Mr. Grant Duff in reply.*

Lord Lansdowne would be glad to learn whether Mr. Secretary Brodrick concurs in the terms of this draft.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 97.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 156.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, August* 24, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in continuation of my despatch No. 144 of the 8th instant, copies of correspondence with His Majesty's Resident in the Persian Gulf on the subject of the Mekran slave trade.

It is not to be supposed that the Persian or any other Oriental Government will take any real steps against a traffic of this nature, but there may be political objections to strengthening the hands of the Belgian authorities, who would view it from an European standpoint, in the ports of the Persian Gulf by giving them power to deal with slave-trade matters. Though M. Naus therefore has told me that he would be prepared, if asked to do so, to move in the matter, I think it better to say nothing further to him till I am favoured with your Lordship's views and those of the Government of India on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Major Cox to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 115.)
Sir, *Bushire, August* 6, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 78, dated the 18th June, 1904, on the subject of the prevalence of slavery in Persian territory, I have the honour to inclose an extract from a letter from the Governor of Bushire to the Persian Foreign Office Agent on another question, from which it appears that his Excellency the Derya Begi at all events does not admit that the Slave Trade Treaty in force between Persia and His Majesty's Government applies to any traffic except that with Africa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. Z. COX.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

The Governor, Bushire, to Persian Foreign Office Agent, Bushire.

(Translation.)
(Extract.) [*Undated.*]

. . . . According to the Treaties of the two Governments, African slave trade is abolished, but the Baluchis and their children have not discontinued this practice (of slave dealing) on account of poverty, otherwise it is also prevented in the tribes of Khans.

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* See No. 117.

Inclosure 3 in No. 97.

Sir A. Hardinge to Major Cox.

(No. 27.)

Sir, *Gulahek, August* 24, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 115 of the 6th ultimo inclosing a translation of a note addressed to the Karguzar of Bushire by the Derya Begi, in which his Excellency appears to imply that the Persian Government is under no obligation to interfere with the traffic in slaves not of African origin, a definition which would exclude the Beluchis exported from Mekran to Arabia.

It is true that the provisions of the Treaties to which Persia is a party on the subject of the slave trade had mainly in view negroes who constituted the immense majority of the slave population, and that the Treaty with Her Majesty, of the 14th June, 1882, mentioned as a *primâ facie* evidence of slave trading, the presence among the attendants of a person returning from a pilgrimage of any negro or negroes not mentioned in his original pass. But it cannot for a moment be admitted that the detestation with which the civilized world regards the traffic in human beings only applies to it in so far as it deals with Africans, and that the Treaties on the subject cannot be invoked when its victims are of Asiatic race, because their framers did not contemplate the enslavement of such persons.

You should call the attention of the Karguzar to Article XXI of the General Act of the Brussels Conference, which especially includes the Persian Gulf and Beluchistan within the zone to which the provisions of the Article apply; to Article LXIX, by which "Sa Majesté le Schah de Perse consent à organiser une surveillance active dans les eaux territoriales, et sur celles des côtes du Golfe Persique, et sur celles d'Oman qui sont placées sous sa souveraineté, ainsi que sur les routes intérieures qui servent au transport des esclaves," and of the fact that whereas some of the Articles of the Act, such as LXVIII, LXX (dealing with the obligations of Turkey and Zanzibar, whose respective possessions are partly or wholly situated in Africa), and LXXII, speak of "African slaves" the vast majority of them, and in particular the one above quoted referring to the responsibilities of Persia, speak of slaves without any qualifications.

Apart, however, from the question of Persia's international obligations, the trade in Beluch slaves is forbidden by the municipal law of Persia, in so far as the latter is based upon and in harmony with the Mahommedan religion.

The only legitimate subjects of slavery in the eyes of Mahommedan Law are conquered infidels and their descendants born in slavery, even when these latter are Moslems, but the seizure of a free Moslem such as a Beluch, and his sale as a slave, is a proceeding which no Mollah in Persia would not regard as illegal, and indeed criminal. Even if no slave trade Treaties with foreign Powers existed, it would be the duty of a Mahommedan Government such as that of Persia to repress such offences against the law of Islam with the utmost severity.

I may add for your confidential information that M. Naus has expressed his willingness to instruct his subordinates to take measures for the repression of the slave trade, if invited to do so, but in view of the possible inexpediency of placing new power in the ports of Southern Persia in the hands of the Belgian authorities, I propose awaiting an expression of the views of Lord Lansdowne and of the Government of India before making any further suggestions in this sense.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

P.S.—With reference to the question of the application of the Brussels Act to African as distinct from other slaves, you will find, if you refer to the discussions of the Conference, that this question was actually debated at Brussels. The Turkish Delegate, Caratheodory Effendi, wished to employ instead of the words "tout esclave" the words "tout esclave Africain." "Pour le Gouvernement Ottoman, il n'existe que des esclaves Africains," was his observation. The French, British, and Austrian Delegates objected to this view, and the President observed that it had been agreed that "tout esclave quelque soit son origine tombe sous l'application de cet Article."

It is quoted in "Hertslet's State Papers," vol. lxxxii, p. 395, and it might be as well that you should call the Karguzar's attention to the fact that the Conference did actually consider the question and decided it in the sense opposite to which the Daria Begi professes to understand it.

A. H. H.

No. 98.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 159.)

My Lord, *Gulahek, August* 26, 1904.

I HAD some conversation on the 22nd instant with Mr. New, of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, who has just returned from the neighbourhood of Kuh-i-Malik-i-Siah, as to the feasibility of connecting that place, or some other point further to the west on the Central Persian system with Seistan, by means of wireless telegraphy.

The result of our interview was my telegram to your Lordship No. 91, of the 23rd instant.

Mr. New thought that the best point on the Central Persian line for establishing wireless telegraphic communication with His Majesty's Consulate in Seistan would be Beluchab Bala, some distance to the north-west of Kuh-i-Malik-i-Siah from which Nasratabad is distant about 70 miles across a level country. Between Seistan and Kun-i-Malik-i-Siah, a distance of nearly 100 miles, the country becomes hilly after passing Hormak, but Mr. New thought that it might be possible to establish a Marconi apparatus for communicating with Seistan on the summit of Kuh-i-Malik-i-Siah, which, as your Lordship knows, forms the point of junction of the Persian, Afghan, and British boundaries.

It would obviously be an advantage to us if, assuming one of our stations for this purpose to be our Consulate in Seistan, the other were just across the border in British territory. The Russians could not object to wireless communication between our Consulate at Nasratabad and a point in British territory, as they have themselves employed it for communication between their Consulate at Chefoo and Port Arthur, but they might argue that the Persian Government was violating the spirit of its pledge to them if it permitted wireless telegraphy between a station on the Central Persian line situated in Persian territory and Seistan. These difficulties could no doubt be surmounted, but it would be preferable *caeteris paribus* to avoid their arising.

I have little doubt that if wireless telegraphy could be established, the ground would be cut from under the Russian and Persian opposition to the construction of the regular line.

I understand from Mr. New that the telegraph line which the Government of India have built from Quetta joins the Central Persian one at Divanchah, or as it is now called Kuh-i-Malik-i-Siah Ziarat, which, though regarded by the local Persian Authorities as their boundary, it being the last inhabited place in Persia, is 13 miles to the west of the Kuh-i-Malik-i-Siah itself, a line drawn southwards from whose highest point forms the actual frontier between Persian and British territory. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh has called my attention to this point, and has stated that the Shah would prefer that the Indian poles, which are of a different make from those on the Central Persian line, should be removed and other poles like the Persian ones substituted for them between Divanchah and Kuh-i-Malik-i-Siah, "as otherwise the impression may be created that the frontier is at the former and not at the latter place," in other words that we have pushed our border 13 miles west into Persia. I have replied to this suggestion, which is characteristic of Persian suspiciousness as to our designs on the south-east frontier, that I feel sure that the Indo-European Telegraph Department will comply with His Majesty's wishes.

Mr. New believes that a new trade route from Quetta to Kerman will gradually develop parallel with the Central Persian line.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 99.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 160.)

My Lord, *Gulahek, August* 31, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Mohammerah on the subject of piracy in the Shat-el-Arab.

I had some conversation this afternoon on the subject with the Turkish Ambassador, who promised to report to the Sublime Porte my suggestions that the local Turkish and Persian authorities should be instructed to co-operate, and that the Sheikh of Mohammerah should be allowed by the Vali of Bussorah to arrest pirates, who might afterwards be delivered to the Ottoman authorities, on Turkish soil. Shemseddin Bey expressed sympathy with the objects I had in view, but observed that the unsatisfactory state of things described in Mr. McDouall's despatch, prevailed all along the Perso-Turkish frontier from the mouth of the Euphrates to Bayazid.

In reply to an enquiry from him, I said that I was reporting the matter to Constantinople, as well as to His Majesty's Government, in case His Majesty's Ambassador should deem it advisable to call the attention of the Sublime Porte to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Consul McDouall to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Mohammerah, August* 2, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have had a conversation with the Sardar Arfa on the subject of piracy on the Shat-el-Arab and its approaches.

He said that the system of guards and patrols which he has for some years established, and for which he receives no payment from the Persian Government, has practically stopped piracy in the river itself, which is the case. In order to stop piracy outside the river committed by Arabs from both sides of the river, he has repeatedly given names of pirates resident on the Turkish side, but the Turks have always failed to arrest them. If the Turks would make the Headman of the village responsible for the production of the accused men they could arrest them, but they send gendarmes to the village and the Headman informs them that no such man is in the village, and they return. He is of opinion that without combined action on the part of the two Governments, Persian and Turkish, nothing effective can be done. He is willing to meet the Vali of Bussorah with His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah and Mohammerah to confer on the subject if such a meeting could be arranged. The course which he considers would be most effective would be for the two Governments to authorize him to stop piracy by arresting pirates whether on Turkish or Persian soil.

This would, in my opinion, be the most effective means, but is hardly feasible.

He does not deny that there may be pirates resident within his jurisdiction, and is prepared to arrest any one whose name is given to him as having been engaged in a piracy, but complains that though he has given names to the Turkish authorities, they have never given him any names, but make vague statements that the pirates come from Persian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. McDOUALL.

No. 100.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 161. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Gulhek, September* 1, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in continuation of my despatch No. 148 of the 15th ultimo, a translation of a note from the Persian Government, which I have reason to believe was dictated by the Shah himself in reply to the arguments reported as having been used by me in that despatch. Your Lordship will observe that it states as a reason for non-compliance with my request for the extension of our telegraph system to Bunder Abbas, that the Shah has determined to accord in the future no concessions of whatever nature to any foreign subject or Government.

The attitude of distrust and hostility to all foreign enterprise reflected in this communication is now constantly receiving illustrations, and although perhaps primarily inspired by the Shah's own weakness and timidity, is in thorough harmony with the

general policy of the Ain-ed-Dowleh. That Minister who, as your Lordship is aware, has never left his own country, represents Persian Toryism in its extremest and most unbending form, and combines with great obstinacy a suspiciousness which, in the case of all proposals made by foreigners, is intensified by ignorance and inability to understand our objects and to discriminate between such of them as are political or the reverse. M. Naus is at present having great trouble with him about the Russian harbour works at Enzeli. Under the concession granted by the Atabeg-i-Azam to the Russian Road Company, they were permitted to import freely "all material necessary for the projected improvements" in the harbour of Enzeli, and on the strength of this provision they attempted to introduce and lay down a short line of Decauville rails between the landing place and their works, so as to convey heavy materials by trucks and trollies. The Shah and Grand Vizier took alarm at this proposal, which they said was a dangerous attempt to introduce railways into Persia, and must, therefore, be resisted at any cost. M. Naus, who, in the interests of the trade and customs receipts of Enzelli, was most anxious to improve its harbour facilities, pleaded in vain that a short local trolley line for the sole purpose of economising labour could not be regarded as a Russian railway. He has had to leave for Europe without having succeeded in shaking the opposition of the Ain-ed-Dowleh to the landing of the rails, with the result that the operations of the Road Company for the improvement of the harbour of Enzelli have been, at least temporarily, paralyzed.

To take another instance, Mr. Stevens, an English merchant engaged in the silk industry at Barfurush in Mazanderan, had been persecuted by the Local Governor, whose good-will he refused to purchase by a bribe, and who then told him plainly that he would ruin his whole business. This threat he carried out by suborning false witnesses to declare that one of Mr. Stevens' clerks had committed adultery with a Persian woman, and reporting to Tehran that unless he were forbidden to employ female labour in plucking his cocoons, there would be a fanatical outbreak at Barfurush. The Shah thereupon issued an order that no Christian should employ Moslem women, but only men and children, in this form of labour, or should engage in any industry in the nature of manufacture without special authorization of the Government, in return for which he would have to pay it a 10 per cent. tax on his earnings. As male labour for the plucking of cocoons is unobtainable or at least very expensive in the Caspian provinces, the effect of this order, if maintained, will probably be to disorganise the entire silk industry of that region, in which large numbers of Russian, French, and Ottoman-Greek subjects are interested, besides raising very serious questions as to Persia's right to interpret the commercial clauses of her Treaties in such a fashion. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh, with whom I have discussed the question, I think sees the danger, and has given the foreign merchants fifteen days within which to get rid of their female workers, but he pleads that, in presence of the Shah's orders, he cannot do more than this. He attempts, moreover, to argue that the only commerce in which foreigners can engage is foreign trade—that is, direct trade between Persia and foreign countries, and that local trade and especially the establishment of factories or workshops for the preparation of such articles as silk are not within their rights. In pursuance of this theory, which it developed some little time ago, the Persian Government has prohibited cotton spinning operations by a Russian Company in Khorassan, and an electric lighting scheme (also Russian) at Meshed. It seems probable that these proceedings, if persisted in, will involve it in difficulties with several foreign Legations, and I have warned the Mushir-ed-Dowleh of this. His Excellency now says that existing vested interests will be respected, but that no new foreign factories will be allowed. The Persian Government has, however, notwithstanding this professed regard for vested interests, cancelled M. Poliakoff's long-standing concession for establishing life and fire insurance agencies throughout Persia, which formed the subject of my despatch No. 36 of the 25th February last, on the ground that as no serious attempt has been made by the concessionnaire to realize it, he cannot complain that its withdrawal is a cause of substantial loss to him.

The interference of the Ain-ed-Dowleh with the rights of foreign subjects to engage freely in commerce and industry in every form will, of course, have to be resisted, but from a British political point of view, the refusal of the present Persian Government, however foolish and retrogressive, to grant any fresh concessions of whatever nature to foreigners, may not be without some compensating advantages. It puts an end to all such projects as the Russian plan for a pipe line to the Persian Gulf, to which I had to offer such strenuous opposition at the time of the second Russian loan, and protects us against the development under the form of commercial enterprises of anti-British operations or agencies in Southern Persia. It can, however, I think, be only deemed a temporary

phase, due to the personal sentiments of a reactionary Grand Vizier and of a Sovereign who has gradually got to be animated by extreme dread of any extension of any foreign influence in his dominions. The policy must break down when, sooner or later, the railway era opens for Persia, and even now would probably yield to a sufficiently large offer of ready money by a foreign Syndicate bent on pushing a concession. The Government's eagerness for an English loan for the Karun irrigation scheme is indirect proof of this

As regards the special case of the Bunder Abbas telegraph line, I do not regard the last Persian note as final, and I have already replied that the Convention of 1868 entitles us to demand the extension, not as a new concession given to a foreign institution, but as the fulfilment of an existing arrangement between the two Governments for the promotion of our common interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

P.S. *September* 4, 1904.—The Russian Chargé d'Affaires informs me, with respect to the Enzelli harbour works, that he has given a written pledge to the Ain-ed-Dowleh that the Decauville rails to be laid down at Enzelli will not be allowed to be used for the transport of ordinary goods or passengers, but only for that of building materials for the works themselves, and that as soon as the latter are completed the rails will be immediately taken up. He is in hopes that this assurance may remove the opposition of the Persian Government to the landing of the rails.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the note which I am sending in reply to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh's last communication respecting the telegraph extension to Bunder Abbas.

A. H. H.

Inclosure 1 in No. 100.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Sir A. Hardinge.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency, *September* 1, 1904.

I HAVE received your Excellency's note of the 16th ultimo respecting the telegraph line to Bunder Abbas, and I was much surprised at the statements made in it. The Persian Government has never given a written pledge to that of Russia not to connect Seistan by telegraph with British India, but for certain reasons they do not consider this measure suitable. It is a matter of still more surprise when your Excellency says, in connection with Bunder Abbas, that if there is any foundation for the rumours current some years ago that the Russians were to occupy that place, the British Government should be informed of the true fact. How can it be conceivable that the Persian Government should alienate Bunder Abbas, or any other part of its territory, to any other Government? Your Excellency should not give scope to imagination by attaching importance to such false rumours. The Persian Government will never alienate a span of its territory to any Government.

In view of certain political interests, and owing to some previous experience, that the grant of certain Concessions had resulted in great evils, His Imperial Majesty has for some time past decided to stop altogether the grant of any new Concessions or Agreements whatever, in order that counter-demands for similar Concessions may not as a natural consequence be made in turn in other quarters.

The British Government, who, in view of its friendship, desires the independence of Persia, should acquiesce in this wish of His Imperial Majesty, and not attribute this refusal to any other reason, or to a desire to refuse compliance with its request.

(Seal of the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 100.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

Your Excellency, *Gulhek, September* 4, 1904.

I HAVE sent to Lord Lansdowne a translation of your Excellency's note of the 1st instant respecting the extension of the Indo-European telegraph line to Bunder Abbas.

Your Excellency says that the Persian Government have never given Russia a written pledge not to connect Seistan with British India, but that, for certain reasons, they do not consider this measure suitable.

It appears to me to be only courteous to a friendly Government to state what these "certain reasons" are, that is, if they are independent of verbal assurances alleged to have been given to Russia, and I await with interest further particulars from your Excellency on this point.

As regards the Bunder Abbas line, I have repeatedly told both your Excellency and the Grand Vizier that I did not personally believe in the sensational rumours circulated some years ago about a secret Agreement for the lease of Bunder Abbas to Russia. But I still think that the refusal of the Persian Government to sanction the opening of a telegraph station there, following upon a similar refusal respecting Seistan, which in the latter case was avowedly based upon Russian objections, is a step calculated to suggest doubts in many minds as to whether there may not be something in the stories of a secret Agreement affecting Bunder Abbas, and I therefore gladly welcome your Excellency's emphatic declaration that no such Agreement exists.

I do not propose to discuss the expediency of refusing all fresh Concessions to foreign enterprise in the future, because some such Concessions have had evil results in the past. But in the case of the Bunder Abbas extension, there is no question of a fresh Concession. By the Convention of 1868, the Persian Government has allowed the British Government to lay down telegraph lines on the coasts of the Persian Gulf, and receives from us a yearly royalty of 3,000 tomans in return for such permission. The Convention further already provides for the extension of the line from Jask towards Bunder Abbas, and though hitherto the need for such extension has not been felt, the absence of telegraphic communication has now become a real grievance to the merchants, both native and foreign, of that rapidly-growing town. The principal ports on the Caspian, Resht, Meshedisser, and Asterabad, through which Russian goods enter Persia, are all in telegraphic communication with the rest of the world, and a Russian Company is even now under the sanction of the Persian Government improving, for the purposes of Russian trade, the harbour at Enzelli. But the Persian Government refuses to give even the slightest advantages to Bunder Abbas, which is the principal port of entry for goods from British India, and from which caravans, often consisting of hundreds of camels, bring the produce of Bombay and Calcutta to Kerman, Yezd, and all Central Persia. For a long time the merchants there have been asking for a local agency of the Imperial Bank of Persia in order to assist in their business operations, but the Bank refuses, because in a place without telegraphic communications such operations cannot be conducted with profit to itself. The result of this action on the part of the Persian Government is that British and Russian commercial interests do not receive that equal treatment which is in accordance with its professed desire.

Your Excellency asked me a few days ago if I would like to see Russian telegraphs extended along the northern frontier of Persia. I replied that while the increase of telegraphic communications must promote trade, prosperity, and security, I could not see what the political or military dangers could accrue from them. In the event of war between Persia and Great Britain the existence of a telegraph line, even in charge of an English clerk, between Bunder Abbas and India, which the Persian authorities at Bunder Abbas could destroy in a few minutes, would not affect the situation one way or another. In fact, the only political results of the existence of such a line would be the strengthening of the authority of the Persian Government over Bunder Abbas and its dependencies by bringing them into closer touch with the capital, whilst by increasing the wealth and prosperity of the town and district it would probably soon double their Maliat. If, however, the Persian Government thinks these advantages would be balanced by the circumstance that they might occasion a counter-demand on the part of Russia, the answer is easy. Your Excellency has only to refer the Russian Government to the two Articles of the Convention of 1868, which I quote in full for convenience of reference:—

"ARTICLE I.

"In order to provide against any possible accident to the Persian Gulf cable, it is agreed between the High Contracting Governments of England and Persia that the British Government shall make arrangements with regard to the construction and efficient working of a line of telegraph between Gwadur and a point between Jask and Bunder Abbas.

"ARTICLE II.

"The Persian Government will employ, as far as possible, their good offices and authority for facilitating its construction, maintenance, and protection. And the English Government will pay annually to the Persian Government the sum of 3,000 tomans for leave to lay down the line of telegraphs on those coasts and places which are under the sovereignty of Persia, the payment of the above sum being made from the day on which the work of laying the wires is commenced."

Your Excellency does not in your note under reply make any allusion to these Articles, to which I referred in my last communication on this subject. I presume, therefore, that the Persian Government still prefers the extension of the land line from Jask to the project which I have endeavoured to recommend to it, not, I repeat, as a new arrangement, but as the completion in a slightly different form of one entered into nearly forty years ago.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 101.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 162. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, September* 1, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the occasion of the Shah's birthday on the 26th ultimo, a Royal autograph was publicly read at the Palace, promoting the Ain-ed-Dowleh to the dignity of Sadr Azam. His Highness immediately assumed the insignia and robe of his new office, which he wore at his evening reception of the diplomatic and Persian and official world.

As I have had the honour to explain to your Lordship, the title of Sadr Azam, which in Turkey and Persia is the official designation translated by European usage "Grand Vizier," is one which, since the accession of the Kajar dynasty, has never till now been given to a Prince of the Blood; so that when, in January last, the Ain-ed-Dowleh became Prime Minister in name as well as fact instead of President of the Council of Ministers, he assumed the title of Vazir-i-Azam (literally "Greatest Minister"), which, although translatable "Grand Vizier," was not the traditional Eastern equivalent of the dignity so described by Europeans. In practice, he exercised all the powers of the office, and his promotion is, therefore, only of interest as an evidence of the Shah's favour, all the more noteworthy as it involves a breach of precedent.

A material consideration which would appeal with special force to the Ain-ed-Dowleh is that of the numerous congratulatory presents to him which it entails from the entire Persian Court and the Bureaucracy, amounting to a good many thousand pounds (M. Naus' chief clerk, a very minor official, had to give 20*l.*). As the Ain-ed-Dowleh's own present to the Shah in return for the autograph was, I am credibly informed, only 100*l.*, the contributions above described will represent a considerable profit to his purse.

Just before the Shah's birthday, the Ain-ed-Dowleh obtained an order of banishment to Europe or Kerbela against the two elder sons and the brother and brother-in-law of the Atabeg-i-Azam, on the alleged ground that they had intrigued and engaged in seditious language and correspondence against the existing régime, and that disloyal pamphlets attacking it were due to their inspiration.

As these sons of the Atabeg, Mirza Ahmed and Mirza Abdullah are two heavy, stupid youths, to whom their father has, strangely enough, never given a modern education, whilst his brother and brother-in-law are persons of no real influence or political activity, this measure appears to the general public a somewhat vindictive imitation of the late Grand Vizier's treatment of the Emin-ed-Dowleh's family and of the Hakim-ul-Mulk, without the excuses which might be pleaded for the latter, and is thought by some to be the prelude to the confiscation of the fallen Statesman's property. It is also alleged that the Ala-ed-Dowleh is to be included in the order of banishment.

The Arfa-ed-Dowleh, whose attempt to evade a summons here formed the subject of my despatch No. 97 of the 4th June, arrived about three weeks ago, and wisely anticipated all inconvenient demands or inquiries by a payment of 8,000*l.* which has been divided by the Shah and Grand Vizer.

This judicious expenditure was rewarded by the Arfa-ed-Dowleh's being given on the Shah's birthday a high decoration with the title of Emir Nuyan, and it is said that he will return to Constantinople if he does not, as some think, succeed by a further largesse in ousting the Mushir-ed-Dowleh from the Foreign Office. He has spoken to me in very appreciative language of the Ain-ed-Dowleh, at whose country-house he is now staying as his Highness' guest.

M. Naus, as I reported in my telegram No. 93 of the 30th August, told me that the Nizam-es-Sultaneh had offered 40,000*l.* for the Ministry of Customs, and I have since heard other candidates talked of. It is evident to me from M. Naus' own language about his position that he does not regard it as very secure, and that his relations with the Ain-ed-Dowleh have of late been not entirely satisfactory, as his Highness' suspicious temperament and insistence on referring the smallest administrative details to the Shah render the transaction of business with him very difficult and laborious.

M. Naus told me he would not mind abandoning his position here, as he would have a good chance of being made Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance at Brussels, an appointment which was at the present moment vacant. The nomination of a Persian Minister of Customs would, I need hardly say, entail far-reaching consequences, which it is unnecessary to discuss in this despatch.

I thought the Shah looked rather better at the birthday levée than when I last had the honour of an audience with him in June. The doctors believe that the diet and reposeful seclusion to which His Majesty submitted during the cholera epidemic have been distinctly beneficial to his health.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 102.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 163. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, September* 1, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Churchill of a conversation which he has had with the Heshmet-ul-Mulk and the latter's agent at Tehran. I met the Heshmet at the Ain-ed-Dowleh's reception on the Shah's birthday, to which he referred in his conversation with Mr. Churchill, but, whilst greeting him civilly, I avoided any appearance of private conversation with him.

His agent reports that the Shoukat-ul-Mulk has resigned the Governorship of Kain and Birjand, finding this the only way of resisting the pressure put on him by the Ain-ed-Dowleh to come here. His Highness has given me to understand that the Heshmet's return to Seistan was being deferred pending the arrival of the Shoukat, and the latter's definite declaration of his inability to move from Birjand, if confirmed, may oblige the Persian Government to find some fresh reason for keeping the Heshmet here, if that is, as I suspect, its intention.

I am asking the Heshmet's agent to explain to him that Colonel McMahon's friendly relations with the Yamin-i-Nizam have nothing to do with the latter's enmity with the Heshmet, but that it is natural, as the Yamin is the special officer appointed by the Persian Government to discuss the boundary question with him, that he should be thrown into close and intimate intercourse with him. I am adding that both Colonel McMahon and Captain McPherson are to my knowledge very well disposed towards him, and have frequently written to me in that sense, that he may feel certain that any service he may have rendered in the past to British interests will not be ignored or disregarded, but that if he wishes me to take any step on his behalf he must give me some indication of his desire, as such independent action on my part might conceivably not coincide with his own wishes and views here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Memorandum by Mr. Churchill.

I CALLED yesterday on the Heshmet-ul-Mulk with his Tehran agent, with whom he spoke before me in an unreserved manner concerning his affairs.

His agent asked why he had taken so long in coming from Seistan, and the Heshmet explained that, though he did his best to get out of coming, even after he had started, he found at Shahrood, whence he still wished to retrace his steps, that the Ain-ed-Dowleh was quite firm in his orders and meant to bring him to Tehran at all costs, and none of the excuses which he brought forward were of any avail. The Grand Vizier had, however, received him very kindly, but had so far not mentioned his return.

I reverted to your proposal to invite him to dinner and to ask him to name the persons he would care to meet. He replied that, as his agent knew, the Grand Vizier watched his movements very closely, and it would consequently never do for his close relations with the Legation to be too apparent. He added that he was studiously reserved at the Grand Vizier's evening reception, and avoided us as much as he could for this reason. I said you quite appreciated the position, and would meet his views as to the invitation to dinner, which you entirely left in his hands to accept or decline.

His agent, who stayed behind after I took leave of the Heshmet, subsequently reported their further conversation.

The Heshmet, he said, dwelt upon the great friendship towards British interests with which he was animated, but expressed disappointment with the attitude towards him of the British Consuls in Seistan, and especially of Colonel McMahon, who, he said, never consulted his interests or acted in conjunction with him. He mentioned as instances the arrival at the Mission camp in Persian territory of hundreds of camel-loads and armed guards, which entered Seistan without reference being made to him, but added that he never in any way interfered with them or reported their arrival to Tehran, though the Yamin Nizam invariably did so. On the other hand, Colonel McMahon was very friendly with the Yamin, who was his greatest enemy.

A day or two ago, the Heshmet said, a telegram had been received by him from his son, the Deputy Governor, reporting the erection of a new dam by the Afghans on the Helmund, which was another source of trouble to him with the Prime Minister, to whom he had sent the telegram.

(Signed) G. P. CHURCHILL.

Gulahek, August 30, 1904.

No. 103.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 164.)

My Lord, *Gulhek, September* 3, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation, together with a copy of my reply, of a note from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, in which his Excellency requests that telegrams exchanged between the Persian Government and its Consul-General in India should, like those passing between His Majesty's Legation and the Government of India, be charged for at half rates only, in accordance with a promise made just previous to the ratification of the Telegraph Convention of the 16th August, 1901.

I would venture to recommend that a favourable answer should be given to this application, if it were only as a matter of courtesy, the more so as I am informed by Mr. New, Acting Director of the Persian section of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, that telegrams between the Persian Government and their Representative in India are not numerous, and the revenue of the Department would not be seriously affected by the concession. Mr. New is also writing to his immediate superiors on the subject.

If your Lordship approves of this concession, I propose suggesting to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that the friendly spirit in which His Majesty's Government has always approached telegraph questions between the two countries and of which the present is a fresh illustration, entitles us to expect a correspondingly conciliatory spirit in dealing with the requests which we have made respecting the Bunder Abbas extension.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 103.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Sir A. Hardinge.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency, *September* 2, 1904.

IT will be in your Excellency's recollection that on the occasion of the conclusion of the last Telegraph Convention of the 16th August, 1901, it was asked that an arrangement should be made by which the Persian Government should pay only half-price for its telegrams exchanged with its Consul-General in India, and in the same way that, in accordance with Article 9, the Government telegrams exchanged between the British Legation and India pay half-price. Your Excellency stated that, as on that occasion, the Convention was about to be ratified, and if this matter was to be added to it, the result would be a delay in the exchange of the ratifications, and it would be better to proceed to ratify the Convention, and whenever the Persian Government subsequently addressed a note on the subject it would not be refused.

Therefore I now request, by virtue of the present friendly note, that your Excellency will report the matter to the necessary place, and let me have a favourable reply and an acceptance of the request, for which I will be gratified.

(Seal of the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 103.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

Your Excellency, *Gulhek, September* 3, 1904.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's note of the 2nd September, respecting the desire of the Persian Government that Government telegrams to and from its Consul-General in India should be transmitted at half rates.

Your Excellency is not quite correct in stating that I said in 1901 that this concession if subsequently asked for would not be refused. It was obviously not in my power to give a promise of that nature respecting a question which had not yet been submitted to my Government. All I said was that I would recommend it to Lord Lansdowne's favourable consideration, and this I am now doing.

I cannot, however, conceal from your Excellency that the coincidence of a request by the Persian Government for a modification in its favour, however unimportant, of existing telegraphic arangements, with its ungracious attitude towards the request made by His Majesty's Government on behalf of the British mercantile community for the extension of the telegraph system to Bunder Abbas is not calculated to encourage in London a friendly disposition to meet its wishes which the Persian Government shows no signs of reciprocating.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 104.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 165. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Gulahek, September* 3, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith (Inclosure No. 1), with reference to my telegram No. 95 of yesterday's date, a copy of the Agreement for increasing, by a further advance of 100,000*l.*, the Loan of the 4th April, 1903. This Agreement was signed on the 1st instant by M. Naus and M. Rabino and countersigned yesterday morning by the Shah and Grand Vizier.

It is, as your Lordship will observe, identical with the draft sent home in my despatch No. 133, except that the words "au recto" have been substituted for the words "ci-dessus" or "ci-dessous," which appear in the original draft. M. Rabino and M. Naus thought it simpler and better to incorporate the original and additional Agreements on a single sheet of paper, the new one being sealed and signed on the back of the original document signed last year by the Shah, instead of attaching to it a separate copy; and this has accordingly been done.

The sum of 23,270*l.* 7*s.*, representing the annuity payable by the Persian Government for the next twenty years on the consolidated advance, works out at a little over 8 per cent. per annum. These figures were taken by M. Rabino from Violene's Tables, but he telegraphed to London to make sure that his calculation was correct.

The date at which payment falls due is the 4th April of every year—that being the date on which the original advance of 200,000*l.* was concluded. A deduction will have to be made from the first annuity, as the interest on the 100,000*l.* now advanced will, by the 4th April next, represent eight months' interest, and not a year's.

On receiving on the 30th ultimo your Lordship's reply to my telegram No. 92 of the 28th, I drew up the note respecting "Fars and the Persian Gulf," of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith (Inclosure No. 2), and handed it to the Grand Vizier. His Highness was a little disturbed at its contents, which he did not at first understand, couched as they were in diplomatic language, with which he is unfamiliar, on a subject which he has never, so far as I can see, fully grasped, and to which, as affecting transactions anterior to his own assumption of office, he has always displayed some indifference. I told him that what the note practically meant was that if the Persian Government ignored the pledge of 1897 and consented to Russian control over the Customs of Mohammerah, or of any other southern port, we should take forcible measures to protect our interests, in view of the anterior promise given by it to us. He said that such an announcement would agitate the Shah, and would produce the impression of an unfriendly threat; and he begged me, as the note from the Persian Government, which had been deemed by your Lordship unsatisfactory, had been drafted by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, to communicate your reply to that Minister rather than himself. I said I had communicated it to his Highness because earlier despatches emanating from your Lordship, as distinct from myself as British Minister, had been transmitted by me to the Atabeg-i-Azam, but that, of course, if he preferred that the Mushir-ed-Dowleh should be the channel of transmission to the Shah, I would ask the latter, as Foreign Minister, to take charge of my note. The Ain-ed-Dowleh replied "Yes, yes; that will be much better—I do not wish to be mixed up in the business ("nemikhahem dakhel shevem"): it is the Mushir-ed-Dowleh's affair, not mine."

On the following morning I called on the Mushir, accompanied by Mr. Churchill, and delivered my note, which his Excellency read aloud in our presence, but which he took a good deal more composedly than the Grand Vivier. He observed, in fact, that it was to the advantage of Persia that His Majesty's Government should declare that they would not permit the establishment of Russian control over Mohammerah; but he reminded me that his note of the 19th June had been, as I had been told at the time, a strictly confidential communication, and he would have preferred that the reply to it should have been couched in a less formal and official strain. I said I had treated, and your Lordship had expressed your willingness to treat, his note as a confidential expression of the Persian Government's views, until, of course, the question at issue arose in a concrete form. I added that I was even willing that it should be kept with certain of our most secret papers in a special safe, but that there was no secrecy about our own opinions on the subject. He observed that munshis were somewhat indiscreet, and that once a question was treated officially the fact had a way of leaking out. It was very desirable that the Russians should not be drawn into the discussion. When I had reopened it a few months ago the Russian Legation had got to know of it, had made inquiries as to what I was doing, and had insisted that the Persian Government should not give me the assurance for which I wished or define the intention with which they had used the expression "Fars and the Persian Gulf." The Persian Government had replied (I understand this all passed verbally) that its own view of the question was that Mohammerah was excluded from the scope of the Russian Loan Agreements. His Excellency's personal opinion was that a further discussion of the question was to be deprecated. I said that if the Persian Government could send me a more satisfactory reply than that which had elicited your Lordship's communication, I should of course welcome it, but that otherwise I agreed with him, as I had no instructions to demand a further note from him on the subject, and as the question of the meaning of the term under discussion was now definitely settled, as far as we were concerned, by the declaration of your views which I had handed to him. I at the same time called his attention to the references in the table annexed to the "Règlement Douanier" to Mohammerah as a port receiving goods from any other port of the Persian Gulf, and suggested that the Russian Legation, if it contended that Mohammerah was not a Gulf port, might be reminded of its own acceptance of the table in question. His Excellency took note of this point.

M. Naus tells me that he has had some conversation with the Ain-ed-Dowleh on the subject of my note, which his Highness seemed to consider unduly menacing. "You may be certain," said M. Naus to him, "that if, in defiance of the engagement of 1897, you were to agree to hand over the Customs of Mohammerah to the Russians, the English would send a ship of war there to prevent it. What difference, then, can it make whether they announce to you their intention beforehand or use force, as they certainly would, without giving you previous warning?" The Grand Vizier seemed disposed to recognize the of force M. Naus' contention.

The day after my interview with the Mushir-ed-Dowleh I learned that M. Rabino had received authority to sign the Agreement, and I accordingly informed M. Naus that, as I had made the required formal communication respecting "Fars and the Persian Gulf" both to the Grand Vizier and the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, I saw no objection to its being completed on the following morning, so as to allow his Excellency to leave for Europe without further delay.

I thought it very important that all the formalities should take place before M. Naus' departure, as the Shah had displayed some reluctance to sanction a further hypothecation of the Gulf Customs, and had actually argued that he never pledged their revenues last year. The Ain-ed-Dowleh was not satisfied with a copy of the Agreement of April 1903, which was sent to him to prove the fact, but insisted on seeing the original document ratified by His Majesty's own autograph. When M. Naus showed it to him, he held it up to the light and turned and twisted it, "as if," said M. Naus to me, "he half suspected that I had interpolated at a later date the words 'Customs of Fars and the Persian Gulf,' which he was forced to admit figured in it." As it was, the Ain-ed-Dowleh was at one time inclined to draw back from the proposal he had authorized M. Naus to make to me, and to say that what he wanted was 300,000*l.*, as a single 100,000*l.* would not help him with the Karun scheme. His Excellency had a good deal of difficulty in persuading him not to do this, and asked me, as will be seen by the inclosed note (Inclosure 3), to facilitate the negotiation by writing him a letter on the subject, saying that I would recommend the Karun project to your Lordship. I said I had no objection to do this, so long as it was made clear that I could not undertake to express any opinion as to the view which you would take of the proposal, and I accordingly sent him the note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy (Inclosure 4). I thought it not a bad thing to place on formal record that the Persian Government had made a direct application for a loan to that of His Majesty. Such a direct application, made and admitted without a reference to the fiction of the Imperial Bank of Persia, represents a further step towards the complete overthrow of the Russian loan monopoly of 1900 and of the Russian financial control which it connoted. The situation is already very different from what it was three years ago, when the Atabeg-i-Azam was so timid about borrowing a large sum, even on account current from the Imperial Bank of Persia, that I was asked to keep all correspondence about the advance of April 1901 an absolute secret from my munshis, lest it should reach the ears of the Russian Legation, and when our offer, made in the autumn of that year, was referred for his permission to accept it to M. Argyropoulo. I gather from a remark dropped by M. Grube to a member of my staff that the Russians have had some inkling of our recent negotiation, and this was one of my reasons for desiring as quick a settlement as possible, lest a remonstrance by them should, in the Shah's present uncertain temper, delay it.

With reference to the Karun scheme, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note by M. Naus to me (Inclosure 5) on this subject, together with a copy of the covering despatch (Inclosure 6), in which I transmitted it on the 20th ultimo to the Government of India. I believe the scheme, if its realization does not, as I fancy it need not, interfere with the navigation of the Karun, might greatly conduce to the promotion of British interests in Southern Persia.

It will, however, be very difficult to negotiate without the assistance of M. Naus, who has just started for Europe on a three months' leave of absence, and I presume it will be some little time before your Lordship will be in a position to give me definite instructions with regard to it. M. Naus' own idea is that the sum of 200,000*l.* will be inadequate for the completion of the Karun works, and he has told the Ain-ed-Dowleh that he would be wise to ask for a larger sum, as otherwise he will find, when he has expended the 200,000*l.*, that he must apply for a further advance to His Majesty's Government, and will then, as so often happened to the Atabeg in dealing with the Russians, have perforce to submit to any terms which the lender may dictate. His Highness, however, maintains that the amount for which he is applying is sufficient.

The Agreement signed on the 1st instant and ratified next day by the Shah for the completion of the advance of last year remains pending further instructions from your Lordship in the custody of the Imperial Bank of Persia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Loan Agreement.

CONTRAT entre, d'une part, le Gouvernement Persan, représenté par son Altesse l'Attabeg Azam, Amin-es-Sultan, et son Excellence M. Naus, Ministre d'État, dûment autorisés par Sa Majesté le Schah ; et, d'autre part, M. Joseph Rabino, "Chief Manager" de l'Imperial Bank of Persia, dûment autorisé par la Direction de cette banque.

L'Imperial Bank of Persia fait au Gouvernement Persan une avance de 200,000*l.*, productive d'intérêts à raison de 5 pour cent l'an.

Le Gouvernement Persan s'engage à rembourser la dite avance à l'Imperial Bank en vingt années, capital et intérêts, au moyen du produit des redevances qui lui sont dues pour les pêcheries de la Mer Caspienne.

Il est convenu que si les revenus des pêcheries de la Mer Caspienne étaient insuffisants pour assurer le paiement régulier du remboursement prévu ci-dessus, le Gouvernement Persan s'engage à prélever et à payer les sommes nécessaires à cet effet sur les revenus des Postes et des Télégraphes, et, en cas d'insuffisance de ceux-ci, sur les revenus des Douanes de Fars et du Golfe Persique.

Pour les contestations pouvant survenir au sujet de l'interprétation du présent Contrat, le texte français prévaudra.

Ainsi fait en double expédition, en Français et en Persan, à Téhéran, le 4 Avril, 1903.

In Persian text (signature and seal).
(Autograph of the Shah.)
(Signed) ATTABEG AZAM.

This writing is correct.
(Signed) J. NAUS.
J. RABINO.
Date. Garden of Gulistan.

Le capital prêté en vertu de l'Acte inscrit au recto est augmenté de 100,000*l.*

Il est convenu que cette nouvelle avance de 100,000*l.* formera, avec la somme de 190,000*l.* qui reste due, une redevabilité totale de 290,000*l.*, remboursable, capital et intérêts, en vingt années, au moyen de vingt annuités égales, étant chacune de 23,270*l.* 7*s.*, échéant le 4 Avril de chaque année, et pour la première fois le 4 Avril, 1905.

Il est également convenu—

1. Que le mode de remboursement stipulé de la sorte ne pourra être modifié qu'en suite d'un accord accepté par les deux parties.

2. Que les garanties affectées en vertu de l'Acte inscrit au recto du présent Acte restent acquises au remboursement de la dite somme de 290,000*l.*

Ainsi fait à Téhéran, le 1er Septembre, 1904.

(Signé) J. NAUS.
J. RABINO.

On the margin of the Persian text His Majesty the Shah has written with his own hand—

"His Highness the Sadr Azam. This 100,000*l.*, in addition to the former 200,000*l.*, is in accordance with the text, and is correct."

The Persian text is sealed by Sultan Abdul Majid, Ain-ed-Dowleh, the 1st September, 1904.

I hereby certify that the above is a correct and true copy of the document held by us.
(Signed) J. RABINO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

Your Excellency, *Tehran, August* 30, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I yesterday evening signed, with his Excellency M. Naus, the "Règlement Douanier" provided for by Article V of the Anglo-Persian Convention of the 9th February, 1903.

Before doing so, I handed to M. Naus the declaration inclosed respecting the distinction made in the table annexed to the "Règlement," between the Customs of "Arabistan" and the so-called Customs of "the south," of which his Excellency took act.

I am at the same time instructed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to make to your Excellency the following communication on this subject, on the part of His Majesty's Government:—

His Majesty's Government have received the note from your Excellency dated the 19th June last, respecting the meaning attached by it to the expression "Fars and the Persian Gulf."

They take note of the formal admission made in that note that the intention of the Persian Government in using that expression was to exclude from the operation of the Russian Loan Contracts all the Customs of Southern Persia; but they regret that your Excellency's reply cannot, in other respects, be considered satisfactory.

They deem it unnecessary to recapitulate the views held by His Majesty's Government on this question, which have been clearly and definitely expressed, both in Tehran and in London.

In order, however, to avoid any possibility of misunderstanding, I am instructed to inform the Persian Government that His Majesty's Government hold them to their engagement of October 1897. This engagement is anterior to the Russian Loan Agreements, and cannot be affected by any of their provisions.

I am at the same time to state that, as it was admittedly intended by the British and Persian Governments that the term "Fars and the Persian Gulf" should include all the Customs of Southern Persia referred to in the engagement of 1897, His Majesty's Government cannot admit a solitary exception in the case of Mohammerah and its dependencies, or of any of the ports of Arabistan, and I am to add that His Majesty's Government will take the necessary steps to insure respect for their rights in the event of any attempt on the part of the Persian Government to ignore them.

This communication being not from myself, but from His Majestys Government, and in Lord Lansdowne's own words, I am making it to your Excellency both in English and Persian.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 104.

M. Naus to Sir A. Hardinge.

Mon cher Ministre, *Zergendeh, le 29 Août*, 1904.

JE reviens de chez Sa Majesté et le Grand Vizir, qui m'ont autorisé à terminer l'engagement pour l'avance de 100,000*l.*

Peut-être feriez-vous bien de convoquer M. Rabino pour demain, afin que nous puissions achever les signatures.

Je dois vous demander, de la part de son Altesse le Sadr Azam, que vous lui écriviez une lettre dans laquelle vous lui direz que le Gouvernement Anglais a déjà donné ses ordres pour l'étude des travaux du Karun; que, vous-même, vous appuyez

la demande d'avance de 200,000*l.* pour l'exécution des travaux, et que vous espérez que cette affaire pourra être réglée conformément aux vues du Gouvernement Persan.

Je ne pense pas qu'il puisse y avoir un inconvénient quelconque à ce que vous écriviez pareille lettre, qui, en somme, ne comporte aucun engagement ferme.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) J. NAUS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 104.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Sadr Azam.

Your Highness, *Gulahek, August* 30, 1904.

M. NAUS informs me that you desired, in addition to the completion of the advance of April 1903 by another 100,000*l.*, a further loan of 200,000*l.* on the same securities, to be affected to the irrigation works in the province of Arabistan, and that you wish me to recommend an arrangement on this basis to His Majesty's Government. On first hearing that your Highness desired British financial assistance for this scheme, I telegraphed in this sense to London. Lord Lansdowne replied that His Majesty's Government was considering the question, but that they would wish to be satisfied, before encouraging it, that the proposed works would not, by diminishing the water supply of the Karun, impede the navigation of that river, in which British trade with Persia is greatly interested.

Since then, as a consequence of further messages which I have sent, His Majesty's Government are taking a more active interest in the question, and I may tell your Highness confidentially that they are already instituting inquiries into the practicability of the scheme, and will probably, if the inquiries confirm the impressions derived by the Persian Government from the reports of its European engineer, Herr von Roggen, authorize me to discuss with your Highness some definite proposals on this subject.

Whilst, however, I am obviously not in a position to give your Highness any assurance as to the view which my Government may, after full examination of your proposals, take of them, I gladly renew to you the expression of my personal sympathy with a project which aims at increasing the prosperity of the province of Arabistan and the general wealth of Persia, and of my willingness to recommend it to Lord Lansdowne, and to promote, to the best of my ability, a mutually satisfactory arrangement for the purpose between our respective Governments.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 104.

M. Naus to Sir A. Hardinge.

Mon cher Ministre, *Zergendeh, le* 19 *Août*, 1904.

J'AI vu hier M. Rabino, et pour hâter la solution à donner à nos demandes financières je l'ai engagé à en entretenir aujourd'hui votre Excellence. Je pense que vous aurez sa visite ce matin.

Voici quelle est la position :

Son Altesse le Grand Vizir voudrait obtenir 300,000*l.* à imputer par augmentation sur le contrat déjà existant pour les 200,000*l.*, sans conditions nouvelles autre que la fixation d'une annuité fixe pour le remboursement cumulé du capital et des intérêts. Son Altesse pense pouvoir obtenir un pareil réglement par la prolongation de la durée de l'emprunt ; elle voudrait donc que le délai final de l'emprunt fût réglé de manière à ne pas dépasser un paiement annuel de 20,000*l.* pour les arriérés. C'est une illusion, puisque même en admettant le terme de soixante-dix ans, aussi les arriérés seraient-ils de même 26,000*l.* par année.

Des 300,000*l.* demandées, son Altesse veut faire usage suivant :—

1. Prendre éventuellement 100,000*l.* pour parer au déficit que détermine en ce moment la faiblesse du revenu douanier par suite de la crise commerciale Russe et de

l'arrêt dans les affaires occasionné par l'épidémie de choléra. Mais son Altesse espère qu'avant la fin de l'année la reprise des affaires commerciales aura pour conséquence de rétablir les recettes douanières et de permettre à l'Administration des Douanes de reconstituer les sommes qui auraient été prises sur les dites 100,000*l.*

2. Réserver le restant de la somme pour l'affecter exclusivement à la construction du barrage d'Ahwaz et à la mise en culture du domaine de l'Arabistan.

Ces intentions sont excellentes. Mais il reste à voir si elles rencontreront l'accord de la Banque Impériale. Pour ma part j'en doute fort.

La Banque Impériale dispose-t-elle en ce moment de prévisions lui permettant d'avancer d'avantage que 100,000*l.* ?

Si, comme je pense, il est ainsi et puisque, d'autre part, il est assez urgent que le Gouvernement Persan puisse disposer immédiatement d'une avance pour parer au déficit momentané qui est occasionné par la crise, je crois plus pratique à tous égards de traiter maintenant pour l'avance de 100,000*l.* dans les conditions sur lesquelles nous nous étions rencontrés dans un accord préalable.

Ensuite, il pourrait être négocié séparément pour une avance destinée aux travaux d'Ahwaz, pour autant que, comme je le pense, la Banque Impériale et son bailleur de fonds apprécient qu'il est de leur intérêt de voir aboutir cette entreprise, qui aurait pour résultat de placer les greniers d'abondance dans le voisinage immédiat de l'Inde Anglaise. Peut-être se contenterait-on pour garantie à l'avance que l'emploi des fonds avancés serait placé sous le contrôle d'un ingénieur de la Banque et que cette dernière aurait privilège sur le produit net des récoltes jusqu'au complet remboursement de ses avances. C'est une grosse affaire et qui appellera, j'en suis certain, la sollicitude de votre Excellence.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) J. NAUS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 104.

Sir A. Hardinge to Government of India.

Sir, *Gulahek, August* 20, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, with reference to my despatch to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 149 of the 15th instant, a copy of an unofficial letter received by me from M. Naus, on the subject of the completion of the advance of April 1903.

His Excellency has now informed me that he is authorized by the Grand Vizier to apply for the completion of the advance, and that the draft Agreement inclosed in my despatch to Lord Lansdowne No. 133 of the 19th ultimo has received his Highness' assent. I have replied that, as to the extent to which the securities, other than that of the Customs of the South were exhausted for the purposes of the new advance, I had thought it necessary to explain their position and amount as clearly as possible to His Majesty's Government and to the Government of India, and that I must await their replies before proceeding any further. If he were ready to insert a provision that the interest on the 100,000*l.* completing the advance should be paid exclusively out of the Southern Customs, I thought we could come to terms at once.

M. Naus said that he had proposed this to the Ain-ed-Dowleh, but that the latter and the Shah, who did not understand these financial transactions, were averse to pledging any of their Customs further, and could not be made to see that an extension of an advance on which the Customs were the ulterior security was in point of fact a further pledging of them.

His Excellency quite understood that the question of a loan for the irrigation of Arabistan would require careful consideration. But he said he believed the Persian Government could satisfy us that the works contemplated would not diminish the water supply of the Karun. M. van Roggen's plans would require to be completed by a further local survey before the Persian Government was in a position to lay its proposals before us, and he himself thought that a larger sum than 200,000*l.* would be necessary in order to carry them out.

I gathered from him that the Grand Vizier's extreme interest in this scheme was to some extent a matter of personal vanity, as his Highness had told him that if they between them could find the means of restoring the ancient fertility and wealth of

Arabistan, their names would go down to posterity illumined with a halo of imperishable glory, and that the Ain-ed-Dowleh's own Premiership, thus marked by a revival of national prosperity, would contrast all the more strikingly with that of the Atabeg-i-Azam, which had brought Persia so near to ruin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 105.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 167. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, September* 6, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of correspondence between His Majesty's Resident in the Persian Gulf and myself respecting certain schemes in which the Sheikh of Mohammerah is interested and those bearing on our general relations with that Chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Major Cox to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 108.)
Sir, *Bushire, July* 21, 1904.

UNDER this office No. 94, dated the 2nd instant, I had the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, Lieutenant Lorimer's Report No. 17, dated the 21st June, in paragraph 9, of which His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Ahwaz dealt with the local aspect of the support which His Majesty's Government had expressed their readiness to afford to the principality of Mohammerah.

2. I now submit copies of two further letters since received from Vice-Consul Lorimer.

The earliest of these two communications deals with two irrigation schemes, and one proposal for the purchase of certain riparian property. The second letter is connected with a supposed endeavour on the part of the Sheikh of Mohammerah to get Messrs. Lynch to move your Excellency to advise the Central Government to reimburse for expenses incurred retrospectively and prospectively, in policing highways of trade in Arabistan.

Each of these subjects I commend to your Excellency for such consideration as you may feel able to give it on its merits. The irrigation projects mentioned in letter No. 25, would no doubt require to be subjected to expert examination before any measure of participation in them, direct or indirect, could be seriously considered by Government, and with the information at present available to me it is difficult to venture any opinion as to their soundness. What irrigation is doing for Egypt, and might do for the region with which we are now concerned is a matter of common knowledge.

3. The course suggested in the second of the inclosures seems *primâ facie* to be worthy of your Excellency's good offices, but, in forwarding these papers what I would ask you especially to notice is the general trend of these and previous reports received from His Majesty's newly-appointed Vice-Consul at Ahwaz. They seem to make it clear that the Sheikh of Mohammerah, in spite of authoritative pronouncements and advice communicated to him by your Excellency, and notwithstanding his own repeated assurances to the contrary, is chafing at the difficulties and uncertainty of his relations and position in regard to the Shah's Government, and is at heart dissatisfied by the need of prospective support of which His Majesty's Government has hitherto felt in a position to assure him.

4. From the records on the subject available to me it appears exceedingly improbable that in the absence of any provocative cause, His Majesty's Government would see its way to amplify its promises in the direction of active support. On the other hand, it is not inconceivable that the Government might come to the conclusion that our position and influence in Arabistan, and our hold over the present Ruler of Mohammerah might be strengthened without dereliction of our obligations to a friendly Power, and without laying

ourselves open to the suspicion that we were encouraging the Sheikh to free himself from allegiance to the Persian Government, by our acquiring concrete vested interests in the prosperity and development of Arabistan, supposing always that the soundness of any agricultural scheme were adequately demonstrated.

It is this general aspect of the possibilities indicated by Lieutenant Lorimer's reports that I would respectively invite your Excellency's attention, apart from the consideration on their merits of the several projects now ventilated, and which it would be undesirable to see handled by non-British agencies.

5. A copy of this despatch is being forwarded to the Foreign Department of the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. Z. COX.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Vice-Consul Lorimer to Major Cox.

(No. 25.)
(Confidential.) *July* 2, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to recur to a question raised in my despatch, dated the 21st June, 1904, namely, the relations of the British Government and the Sheikh of Mohammerah. The present form in which the subject invites attention is that of financial assistance.

I learned first that the Sheikh had been making obscure references through confidential employés of Messrs. Lynch to two or three schemes, for the furtherance of which he would be glad to receive aid from our Government.

These schemes are:—

1. The irrigation of part of Arabistan by five or six steam-pump barges placed on the Karun below Ahwaz.
2. The construction of irrigation works on the rapids at Ahwaz on the site of the old "Band."
3. The purchase of certain land from the Nizam-us-Sultaneh.

Shortly afterwards he called on me, and I was able to talk of the first scheme, which is public knowledge, and to approach the subject of the second.

The third I did not care to introduce.

The Sheikh is an impossible man to get any expression of opinion from when Haji Rais, his counsellor, is not present.

He ventured, however, to commit himself so far as to give me to understand that under certain circumstances he would not be averse to receiving financial help from the British Government in connection with the first and second schemes.

Later I had a private interview with Haji Rais-ut-Tujar on the same subject. He put the matter in this form that I should on my own account invite the opinion of Government on the matter as though the conception were entirely my own, and had not emanated from or been discussed with the Sheikh. If the answer were favourable, he (Haji Rais) would undertake to work the Sheikh into a favourable frame of mind.

I shall proceed to give some explanation of the schemes.

No. 1. The Sheikh has for some time, it appears, entertained this notion. How it was suggested to his mind I do not know. A certain Mr. Blunsum, of the Bussorah Trading Company, has been here prospecting for the last six weeks. On his first arrival at Mohammerah he conceived the same idea, and was very surprised to learn that he had been forestalled in it by the Sheikh. He came up across country and examined the land and river bank. He then interviewed the Sheikh, and has been authorized (I have it only from himself in confidence) to make inquiries in England and furnish estimates. Mr. Blunsum would, of course, like to secure the working of the scheme if feasible for his own Company, but I am sure the Sheikh would not part with its control. In this case Mr. Blunsum says that his firm would be prepared to give all necessary assistance, asking, in return, a preference in the purchase of the produce of the land irrigated.

The Sheikh is, I believe, prepared to spend 15,000*l.* or 20,000*l.* on this scheme. If the expense proved greater, I understand him to imply that he would accept our help. Personally, I believe that he would do so, if it were proposed, in any case.

The practicability of the scheme remains to be proved. The working expenses, more particularly the supply of coal, will run into large figures, and the pumps, &c., will require renewal from time to time.

No. 2. For the second conception the Sheikh would hardly admit his responsibility. He treated it as a castle in the air. He said that he believed it would cost 500,000*l.*, and that he would only undertake it on two conditions:—

(1.) Financial assistance.
(2.) "Another."

By the latter he meant a guarantee of support from the British Government.

The scheme is a very big and difficult one, but it would turn a large part of Arabistan into a permanent garden, and, granted security, there is scarcely room for doubt that it would prove an excellent investment. It would, of course, be necessary to devise some means of securing its advantages to our own traders.

3. The third scheme refers to a large tract of land on the west bank of the Karun. I am indebted to Haji Rais for the following particulars:—

The land is the property of the Nizam-us-Sultaneh, and is leased from him by the Sheikh for 1,500*l.* per annum.

In Sheikh Mizal's time, owing to the unruly state of the Arab inhabitants, the Nizam-us-Sultaneh was very anxious to sell it. Sheikh Mizal, however, did not then want to purchase, and instead reduced the Arabs to order; and the present arrangement was come to.

Under the present improved circumstances, the Nizam would ask an impossible or exorbitant price for it. Haji Rais hinted, however, that a time might come when the Nizam-us-Sultaneh would be willing to sell. The price might then be brought down to, perhaps, 30,000*l.*

Beyond the advantage of increased hold on the Sheikh's "affections," I do not see clearly that we would stand to gain anything in helping him in this project. It would, of course, help towards the consolidation of his power in Arabistan. In seeking financial aid, I do not think that the Sheikh's ultimate object would be merely money, but rather an actual or practical guarantee by the British Government.

Inclosure 3 in No. 105.

Vice-Consul Lorimer to Major Cox.

(No. 34.)
(Confidential.)

Ahwaz, July 4, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to recall attention to a remark in paragraph 9 of my No. 17, dated the 21st June, in which I stated that I thought the Sheikh of Mohammerah was inclined to hint that we should try and take steps to press the Persian Government to refund him the expenses he has lately incurred in protecting the "Shushan" and the route of Arabistan.

I now forward inclosed two papers, which were recently handed me by Mr. Wilson, of Messrs. Lynch Brothers.

The Arabic note was dictated by Haji Rais-ut-Tujar to a confidential Arab clerk in Messrs. Lynch's employ.

Whether the paper was intended to come to me I do not know. At any rate, it must be treated as highly confidential.

For this reason I have not attempted to have the original translation made for Mr. Wilson revised.

The note was supposed to indicate the form of a letter which Mr. Wilson was to write to the British Minister.

Inclosure 4 in No. 105.

Note dictated by Haji Rais-ut-Tujar to an Arab Clerk of Messrs. Lynch.

(Translation.)

Proposed Draft from Messrs. Lynch to Minister, Tehran.

ABOUT a month ago his Excellency Sheikh Khazal, Sardar Arfa, came to Nasiri and the Karun, and sent his nephew with many sowars to Shuster and Dizful, and fully arranged matters in Arabistan. At the same time, all the Khasray and Abdul Khan, from fear of the Sheikh, fled and absented themselves from these tow districts, and went to the Beni-Taroff, and we sent the steam-ship "Shushan" in safety until the arrival of the Azam-us-Sultaneh, Governor of Arabistan.

We see that the Sheikh is incurring all the expenses on this account—the maintenance of order and the service of the Government—and, according to what we hear, this expenditure will come from his own pocket, and the Government will not help him over this expenditure.

As long as the Sheikh is put to the entire expense of keeping order in the Shat-el-Arab for the protection of the country, and in the Karun as far as Dizful, and his Government will give him nothing to compensate him for all these expenses, let it be known to you that he cannot bear these expenses for more than two months at the outside. When the Governor comes, he (the Sheikh) will withdraw himself from the maintenance of order in Shuster and Dizful, and when he withdraws we inform you that peace will become confusion, as heretofore.

If you will relate this to the Persian Government, an arrangement will be come to with the Sheikh, and he will be given assistance in the matter of expenditure, so that he may always strive to do his utmost and keep sowars for the purpose of keeping Dizful and Shuster in order, and there will be peace and rest for all, especially for our trade.

And since we know that the Persian authorities are not supported nor fitted out by the Government with strength sufficient to enable them to make satisfactory arrangement, even if they were willing to send many soldiers they would not be able to cope with the situation successfully, and it is easier for them to come to some arrangement with the Sheikh, in which there will be ease for the Government of Iran and for the people of Arabistan and for all.

Inclosure 5 in No. 105.

Sir A. Hardinge to Major Cox.

(No. 28.)

Gulahek, August 31, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 108 of the 21st ultimo, respecting certain schemes in which the Sheikh of Mohammerah has expressed interest, and their bearing on our general relations with that Chief.

With regard to the first of these schemes, namely, the irrigation of a part of Arabistan by five or six steam pumps, I think it unlikely that His Majesty's Government would give him any direct financial assistance with a view to the execution of this project. He could, however, probably obtain such assistance from the Imperial Bank of Persia, and it might be possible that an advance to him by that institution might, under certain conditions, be guaranteed by His Majesty's Government.

The question of the rebuilding of the Ahwaz Bund is, as you are doubtless aware from the despatches from me to the Government of India, which pass through your hands, now engaging the attention of the Persian Government, which is endeavouring to persuade that of His Majesty to advance it a sum of 200,000*l.* in order to give effect to the recommendations made by the Dutch engineer, Herr van Roggen.

The question of the acquisition of the Nizam-es-Sultaneh's lands on the west bank of the Karun by the Sheikh does not seem to me to be one in which His Majesty's Legation could usefully interfere. The Nizam, whom I know well, is an extremely suspicious and close-fisted man, very keen about money, and the mere notion that we were interested in

the transfer of his property to the Sheikh would probably make him stand out for a higher price, under the impression that he was dealing with a rich foreign Government as a party to the transaction.

With respect to the question of the repayment of the expenses incurred by the Sheikh in maintaining order on the Upper Karun, I should be prepared to send in the draft note from Messrs. Lynch, inclosed in Lieutenant Lorimer's No. 25 of the 2nd ultimo, on being informed by Mr. Wilson that he authorizes me to treat it as a communication from that firm, and to support the suggestions made in it. I should, however, omit the concluding paragraph, which, though no more than the truth, is likely to give offence.

I am sending a copy of this despatch, and of yours to which it replies, to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 106.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 168.)
My Lord, *Gulhek, September* 8, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that, on being informed by the Government of India that the Ameer of Afghanistan had consented to the demarcation of the Seistan frontier, I sent a message to that effect to the Grand Vizier, who expressed his great satisfaction at the news. I at the same time informed his Highness of the representations which the Government of India had made at Cabul respecting the encroachments at Musabad, of which the Persian Government has of late been again making complaints. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh states that the Afghans have encroached not merely at Musabad, but at a place in its vicinity named "Ayubi," respecting which I have so far no information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 107.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 169. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Gulhek, September* 7, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, with reference to Mr. Spring-Rice's despatch No. 201 of the 27th April last, and of my despatch No. 130 of the 18th July (last paragraph), copies of correspondence which has passed between His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed and myself respecting Russian projects for connecting the Khorassan and Trans-Caspian telegraph systems.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

Consul-General Minchin to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Meshed, August* 16, 1904.

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 17, dated the 21st July last, regarding construction of telegraph lines on the north-western frontier, I have the honour to forward a copy of a note written on the subject by Mr. McLachlan, our telegraphist at Meshed.

The construction of the lines does not appear to have been abandoned at all, as stated in the "Trans-Caspian Review."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. F. MINCHIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

Note by Mr. J. K. McLachlan.

M. IVANNESSOFF, Armenian clerk in Meshed, in answer to inquiries respecting the line in question, says the suggestions of construction of the lines mentioned emanated from M. Sultanoff, the Russian clerk here, who made a series of complaints about the unworkable condition of the Sarakhs line, which it seems was strongly supported by the late M. Vlassow (Russian Minister in Tehran). The line has not been begun in Persian territory, but completed on the Russian side. It seems his Excellency the Mukhbar-ed-Dowleh wired to Khabir-ed-Dowleh asking the distances from Deregez to the Russian frontier, and Kuchan to Bajgireh, which were duly furnished (4 to 5 farsakhs distance of first, and 12 to 13 farsakhs between the second). Russians offered to supply insulators and the wire, the Persians supplying the poles. Four hundred juniper poles have been purchased at 4 krans each at Deregez. Persian Gholam Bashi, who was sent to Kuchan to purchase juniper, intimated to Russian constructor here that only poplar poles were procurable, which the Russian constructor rejected. This has caused the postponement of the work.

Meshed, August 14, 1904.

Inclosure 3 in No. 107.

Sir A. Hardinge to Consul-General Minchin.

(No. 21. Confidential.)
Sir, *Gulhek, September* 7, 1904.

THE Minister of Telegraphs, his Excellency the Moukhbar-ed-Dowleh, with whom I had some conversation to-day on the subject of the proposed Artik–Deregez and Kuchan–Bajgiran lines, referred to in your despatch No. 15 of the 16th ultimo, stated that it was quite true that a difference had arisen, as reported by you respecting the nature of the poles to be used for them, but said that the real reason for the suspension of the work on them was that the Persian Government had alleged the want of necessary funds for their completion to which His Majesty the Shah was averse, and that the Russian Legation has ceased to press for it. He thought that the absorption of the Russian Government in the war with Japan would cause its telegraphic projects in Khorassan to be shelved, a consummation which the Persian Government greatly desire.

The above information has been confirmed by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 108.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 170.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, September* 9, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my despatch No. 152 of the 16th ultimo, that I had a long interview on the 21st ultimo with the Grand Vizier, the Foreign Minister, and M. Naus, on the subject of quarantine in the Persian Gulf.

I recapitulated the history of my discussions on this subject a year ago with the Atabeg-i-Azam and with M. Naus during the last week or so, and said that what I wanted was the issue of immediate instructions to the Customs authorities at Bushire and elsewhere in the Gulf to abstain from any interference with the administration of quarantine by our doctors. If the Persian Government were dissatisfied with the working of existing arrangements—if it thought, for example, that the expenditure was unequally divided between itself and the Government of India, or that in any other respect the system agreed upon in 1896 was susceptible of improvement—let it make representations to that effect. But pending a settlement between the two parties to the agreement on which that system rested, I must insist that it should not be disturbed by one of them without the concurrence of the other. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh tried to argue, and the Grand Vizier followed briefly on the same lines, that I ought to produce documentary evidence that the existing system had been formally accepted by the Persian Government.

The fact is that such evidence is not forthcoming. Our papers on the subject are very meagre, and the only one on which I have been able so far to lay my hands is the report of the Board of Health to the Shah, of which I inclose copy for reference. There are, indeed, records in our register of an application from the then Grand Vizier for the services of Indian doctors, and of an acquiescence in it by Sir Mortimer Durand, but the most diligent search has failed to trace these papers, and it is difficult, in their absence, to convince the Persian Ministers that any binding or permanent agreement on these lines was concluded between the two Governments. The understanding, they allege, was a merely provisional one, which they are free to terminate at their own convenience.

M. Naus, speaking next, contended that even if the arrangement recorded in the only paper in our possession—the Resolution of the Medical Council—was of formal authority, all it gave us was a right to demand that copies of the orders sent by the Shah on quarantine matters to the Governor of Bushire should be communicated through the Legation to the Residency surgeon. His Excellency also argued that our control was merely over maritime quarantine, and that the present conflict had arisen, or at least had been rendered acute, owing to the Resident's claim to treat as coming within the exclusive scope of our doctors the quarantine on the land side of Bushire between that port and the road leading into Fars.

I observed that the latter was a subsidiary question. The point of principle hinged on our objection to the Customs Department being the official channel of communication between the Tehran Government and our doctors, and to the claim of the Director-General of Customs at Bushire to issue orders to them in matters affecting quarantine. I thought, personally, that the protection of the port of Bushire against cholera or plague involved the exercise of control by the officer in charge of maritime quarantine over the land approaches to the peninsula on which Bushire was situated, but I had no definite instructions from your Lordship on that point. I should be prepared to suggest to you as a provisional compromise, if this would help matters—though I could not say how you would view the suggestion—some arrangement for joint supervision by the Persian authorities and our own over the land routes communicating with the interior. In reply to a question by the Ain-ed-Dowleh I said that we did not claim to control quarantine arrangements in the interior of Fars, but that I thought it convenient that the doctor in charge of the port quarantine at Bushire should also supervise all the immediate approaches, whether by land or sea, to that city.

M. Naus said that in 1898 the then British Resident had declined all responsibility for sanitary measures within the town itself which the Persian Government had asked him to undertake, as distinct from purely maritime quarantine, and that, in so far as we now claimed to assume it, we were making a new demand.

His Excellency shortly afterwards left the meeting in order to keep an engagement elsewhere, and the debate was accordingly adjourned.

Some desultory talk followed M. Naus' departure, and the Ain-ed-Dowleh, to whom I showed unofficially a translation of your Lordship's telegram No. 76 of the 13th August, 1903, said he failed to see why the efforts of the Persian Government to protect its own territory and subjects against epidemics in the manner it thought best should be deemed unfriendly by His Majesty's Government.

I endeavoured to explain fully and frankly to his Highness, using the same line of argument as I had employed with M. Naus, as reported in my despatch No. 152 of the 16th August, why the Government of India resented, in existing circumstances, the encroachment of the Belgian Customs officials on the province of our quarantine doctors. I observed that, while I had always endeavoured, in discussing this question with the Viceroy in the Gulf and in my reports to your Lordship, to do the fullest justice to the Customs Administration and to its desire to be impartial to British as against unfriendly foreign interests, the Belgian officials were certainly regarded through Southern Persia, and by many persons in other parts of the country, as an influence inimical rather than otherwise to our own, and that we deemed it inexpedient, in view of the widespread prevalence of this impression, that they should be permitted in any degree to control our officers, especially in a matter so vital to our commerce as quarantine.

The Ain-ed-Dowleh said little in answer to these remarks. The question is new to him, and he is slow to grasp the kind of considerations, both political and commercial, which have determined our attitude in respect to it. He confined himself to replying that he would lay the arguments which I had used before the Shah, and after taking His Majesty's orders would give me his decision in a few days' time.

The week which followed our meeting was a busy one, being taken up, besides the celebration of the Shah's birthday, by the negotiations for the completion of last year's

loan, the conclusion of the "Règlement Douanier," the discussions about your Lordship's despatch respecting the term "Fars and the Persian Gulf," and the settlement of many outstanding matters with M. Naus before his Excellency's departure for Europe. I therefore deemed it only courteous to acquiesce in the Grand Vizier's demand for a little longer time to consider the quarantine question, and it was only after M. Naus had left that I again approached him on the subject and obtained from him a promise that he would instruct the Director-General of the Customs at Bushire, through M. Lavers, Secretary-General, who acts for M. Naus in his absence, to desist for the present from all further interference with quarantine in the ports of the Gulf. His Highness, however, said that he would wish, when M. Naus returned, to rediscuss the question with me, and implied that he would also, as a necessary corollary, deal with that of the Russian cordon in Khorassan. He further stated that the abstention of the Persian officials from interference with our officers must not be held to preclude them from reporting to Tehran any cases in which the proceedings of the latter were of a nature to prejudice the interests of the Persian Government.

M. Lavers now informs me that he has received instructions from his Highness in the above sense, and has dispatched to M. Waffelaert at Bushire a telegram the text of which was given in mine to your Lordship, No. 96, of yesterday's date. M. Lavers himself, as a mere acting administrator, is anxious to avoid, during his tenure of office, any acute conflict with His Majesty's Legation, and has accordingly intimated privately to M. Waffelaert that the words "as far as possible," in the Ain-ed-Dowleh's orders, are not to be regarded as qualifying the substance of the letter.

He tells me that the somewhat unyielding attitude which the Persian Ministers long displayed on this question was largely due to a recent incident at Lingah. A complaint was made to the Persian Government by the French Legation that our doctor there had given free "pratique" to an English vessel from Bahrein and had quarantined a Russian one from Bussorah, whose papers were identical with those of the English ship, and on which a French passenger was travelling. As the Indian doctor at Lingah declined to discuss his action on the ground that he was responsible to the Residency alone, and not to the Persian Government, the latter had been placed in a very false and embarrassing position in relation to the French Legation. I have the honour to inclose a short précis of the papers which he has sent me on the subject and to report that I am inquiring into the matter. In the meanwhile, I anticipate that the Grand Vizier's action will stop for the immediate present any further interference by the Customs authorities with quarantine, and will thus give us time to consider, should such interference revive after M. Naus' return from Europe, which is possible, though, I think, not very probable, what effective measures we should take for disposing of it once for all. It appears clear to me (1) that a recourse to the use of force is best avoided so long as such avoidance is possible without sacrificing material interests, but (2) that if we have to resort to forcible measures they should be of a very thorough and decisive character.

In connection with this question of quarantine, I have the honour to transmit herewith the inclosed Report of the proceedings of the new Tehran Sanitary Council. Your Lordship will observe in it that the Persian Government has authorized its Minister at Paris to adhere as yet only *ad referendum* to the resolutions of the Paris Sanitary Conference. The reason for this reservation is the objection of the Shah to the proposal that quarantine arrangements in Persia should be placed under the supervision of the Constantinople Sanitary Council, and that a bureau depending on that institution should be established on the Island of Ormuz, and should fly a flag undistinguishable, or nearly so, from the Turkish one over its buildings there. M. Lavers observed to me that he had noted that Mr. de Bunsen, as British Delegate at the Conference, had also made some reservations with respect to this proposal, and he added that he presumed His Majesty's Government would share the objections of Persia to the establishment at Ormuz of an international authority, with its head-quarters at Constantinople. I said that I had as yet received no instructions from your Lordship on this question, but was disposed *a priori* to concur in the opinion expressed by him.

I may add, with reference to the Tehran Sanitary Council, that the Persian Government has agreed to my proposal that Dr. Scott should become a member of that body. This, if Sir Hugh Adcock consents on his return to attend meetings presided over by his rival, Dr. Schneider, will give us four British Representatives on the Board, as compared with two French, two Russian, and one for each of the remaining foreign Powers, namely, Germany, Turkey, and the United States, who have medical officers at Tehran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 108.

Letter addressed by the Board of Health to the Persian Government.

Le 24 Février, 1897.

TOUS les ordres concernant les mesures sanitaires du Golfe Persique, en même temps qu'ils sont envoyés au Gouverneur de Bouchir, doivent être transmis au médecin Anglais de Bouchir par l'intermédiaire de la Légation d'Angleterre. Dans le cas où il y aura divergence entre les ordres reçus par le Gouverneur et le médecin de la Résidence Anglaise, ils ne devront pas être promulgués avant qu'il n'en ait été référé à Téhéran. Il est indispensable, pour la bonne conduite de la quarantaine, que cette condition soit strictement observée.

Inclosure 2 in No. 108.

Statement communicated to Sir A. Hardinge by the Ministry of Customs concerning the Quarantine Incident at Lingah.

I HAVE received from Bushire a Report inclosing complaints from the Consuls of France and Russia as to the action of the English doctors attached to the quarantine service in the Persian Gulf.

It appears that at Lingah, on the 29th May last, the British steamer "Moshtari," from Bahrein, was let off sanitary inspection and was able to unload her cargo immediately, in spite of the formal order of His Majesty the Shah of the 24th May, prescribing four days' obligatory quarantine for all vessels leaving Bahrein.

On the other hand, at Bushire, on the 1st June, the English quarantine doctor imposed ten days' quarantine on the Russian steamer "Trouvor," although she had a clean bill of health given her at Bussorah, and it was proved she had had no communication with land since the delivery to her of the bill of health.

As this differential treatment of the two ships appeared to have a political character which the Russian Consul did not fail to notice, he addressed himself to the Administration of Customs, officially entrusted with the organization of quarantine throughout the country, protesting against the measures taken with regard to the Russian steam-ship "Trouvor." He was supported by the French Consul, who protested in the name of M. Brasseur, a French subject, who was on board the "Trouvor," and appears to have suffered considerable pecuniary loss through the illegal detention he underwent in the quarantine.

Inclosure 3 in No. 108.

Procès-verbal of Meeting of Tehran Sanitary Board, held August 6, 1904.

CONSEIL SANITAIRE DE L'EMPIRE DE PERSE.

LE 6 Août, 1904, par ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah, le Conseil de Santé de l'Empire de Perse, nouvellement institué par Décret Impérial, se réunit à 5 heures du soir, à Sabkramé chez son Président, le Docteur Schneider, médecin en chef de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah.

Sont présents :

Le Docteur Schneider.
Son Excellence Mohtachem-Saltaneh, Délégué du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.
Son Excellence Mohandes-Bachi, Délégué du Ministre de l'Intérieur.
M. Lavers, Délégué du Ministre des Douanes et des Postes.
Son Excellence Reza Gohli Khan, Délégué du Ministre de l'Instruction Publique.
Les Docteurs Nazem-ul-Etteba, Médecin de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah.
Odling, Médecin de la Légation d'Angleterre.
Wishard, Médecin de la Légation des États-Unis d'Amérique.
Lœw, Médecin de la Légation d'Allemagne.

Les Docteurs Walter, Médecin de la Légation de Russie.
Sadowsky, Médecin de la Brigade des Cosaques.
M. Lecomte, Pharmacien de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah.

Assiste également à la séance : M. de Coninck, Secrétaire du Conseil.

Se sont excusés :

Leurs Excellences Saïd-es-Saltaneh, Ministre de la Police ; Etimad-Sultaneh, Ministre de la Municipalité ; les Docteurs Hakim-el-Moulk et Alem-ed-Dowleh, Médecins de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah.

Absents, non excusés :

Le Docteur Lindley, Médecin de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah.
Son Excellence Emin-Zarb, Délégué du Ministre du Commerce.
M. le Docteur d'Obermayer, Délégué Sanitaire Ottoman, nouvellement arrivé à Téhéran, n'a pas pu être prévenu à temps.

Le Président donne lecture du "Dastkate," ou Décret de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah, instituant le Conseil de Santé de l'Empire de Perse et nommant le Docteur Schneider Président de ce Comité.

Ce Décret est ainsi conçu :

"Décret Impérial sur l'Organisation du Conseil Sanitaire de l'Empire Persan.

"De la main de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah : Ce qui est écrit ci-contre est exact ; et ce Règlement doit être mis à exécution.—Mois de Rabbi-Oul-Sani, 1322.

("Paraphe de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah.)

"La composition des membres de ce Conseil doit être la suivante : un représentant du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, un représentant du Ministère de l'Intérieur, un représentant du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, un représentant du Ministère des Douanes, le Ministre de la Police, le Ministre de la Municipalité, les médecins Européens de la Cour, les médecins des Legations, des médecins Persans en quantité nécessaire ; en outre il y aura un Interprète, un Secrétaire, et un Chancelier.

"Les réunions de ce Conseil auront pour but de mettre à exécution les décisions qui ont été prises par la Conférence Sanitaire de Paris.

"Le Président de ce Conseil sera désigné par Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah (de l'écriture même de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah 'le Docteur Schneider, qui est notre médecin particulier, est Président de ce Conseil').

"Le Conseil, après son organisation, élaborera son règlement intérieur et, après la désignation du Président, des Membres du Conseil, désignera un Vice-Président, un Secrétaire, un Interprète, et un Chancelier.

"Le susdit Conseil se réunira régulièrement une fois par mois ; et, dans les cas extraordinaires, il se réunira chaque fois qu'il sera nécessaire.

"Le Rapport du Conseil sera toujours communiqué au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, et ce Département se chargera de le faire parvenir à qui il appartiendra.

"Le Conseil pourra discuter toutes les questions concernant les mesures sanitaires, comme celles relatives à l'île d'Ormuz et communiquer avec le Conseil Sanitaire de Constantinople et le Conseil de Paris, ainsi qu'il est prévu par la Conférence Sanitaire de Paris.

"Pour copie certifiée conforme :
"Le premier interprète par intérim
de la Légation de France,
(Signé) "SAUGON.

"*Téhéran, le* 1er *Août*, 1904."

Communication est faite ensuite de la lettre suivante, adressée par son Excellence Mouchir-ed-Dowleh au Docteur Schneider :—

" A son Excellence le Dr. Schneider.

" Chère Excellence,

" Vous n'ignorez pas que, d'après les ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale, un Conseil Sanitaire doit être constitué à Téhéran sous votre direction et votre surveillance.

" Son Excellence M. Naus me fait connaître que MM. Lavers et Fallon viennent d'être nommés par le Ministère des Douanes et des Postes en vue d'assister aux séances du dit Conseil, pour faire mettre à exécution les décisions prises. M. Naus ajoute qu'il n'a pas manqué d'inviter le Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, le Ministère du Commerce et celui de l'Intérieur à se faire représenter dans le dit Conseil par des Délégués respectifs.

" Enfin, il fait valoir que la présidence de ce Conseil vous ayant été confiée, il entre dans vos attributions d'inviter les membres à se réunir et de veiller aux dispositions nécessaires à prendre. M. Naus pense aussi qu'il est nécessaire de vous adjoindre quelqu'un pour mettre à jour les travaux du Conseil, et il trouve que M. de Coninck serait apte à remplir cet emploi. Au cas où vous auriez quelque objection à faire pour cette dernière proposition, vous voudriez bien vous-même choisir la personne qui vous conviendrait et me faire connaître votre choix le plus tôt possible.

" Son Excellence Mohtachem-es-Saltaneh représentera le Département des Affaires Étrangères dans le dit Conseil, et le Ministre de la Police y assistera en personne.

" En vous priant de m'informer du résultat de vos démarches, veuillez agréez, &c.

(Signé) " MOUCHIR-ED-DOULEH.

" [*Sans date.*]

" Pour traduction conforme :
" Le premier interprète par intérim
de la Légation de France,
(Signé) " M. SAUGON.

" *Téhéran, le* 20 *Juillet*, 1904."

M. le Dr. Odling demande la parole et dit qu'en qualité de plus ancien collègue du Dr. Schneider, il est heureux de féliciter le Président du choix flatteur, dont il a été l'objet de la part de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah, et qu'il est persuadé qu'avec lui, le Conseil de Santé actuel pourra mener à bonne fin sa mission et travailler fructueusement pour le bien public.

Le Dr. Schneider remercie chaleureusement le Dr. Odling, qui est, en effet, son plus ancien et plus affectionné collègue à Téhéran.

Le Président donne lecture au Conseil de la Convention de Paris du 3 Décembre, 1903, ainsi que du procès-verbal de signature, avec les observations, réserves ou protestations de chaque pays. Il cite également les passages des divers procès-verbaux de séances ayant trait à la Perse. (Voir les procès-verbaux, pp. 113, 125, 143, 144, 216, 389, 393, 455, 458, 459–461, 463, 465–469, 489, 491, 502, 504, 521, 637.)

Son Excellence Mohtachem-es-Saltaneh déclare au Conseil Sanitaire que le Délégué de la Perse, son Excellence Nazare-Agha, a signé la Convention de Paris *ad referendum*, mais que le Gouvernement Persan est sur le point de la signer définitivement.

En outre, sur la demande du Président, il veut bien se charger de prier son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de faire don au Conseil de quelques exemplaires de la Convention Sanitaire de Paris et des procès-verbaux de séances, qui formeront le commencement de la Bibliothèque du Conseil, et seront à la disposition de ses membres.

Le Président déclare, au nom du Gouvernement Persan, qu'en plus de son rôle vis-à-vis des Puissances Signataires de la Convention de Paris, du futur Office Sanitaire Central de Paris et du Conseil Sanitaire International de Constantinople, tel qu'il est défini par le Décret de Sa Majesté Impériale le Schah, le Conseil Sanitaire de l'Empire de Perse devra s'occuper de l'état sanitaire du pays, et éclairer le Gouvernement Persan sur les mesures hygiéniques et prophylactiques à prendre pour la conservation de la santé publique dans tout l'Empire, et notamment à Téhéran.

A l'unanimité le Conseil exprime le vœu d'être exactement renseigné par les pouvoirs publics sur tous les événements épidémiques, sur la mortalité de Téhéran, et d'être autorisé à nommer des correspondants dans les divers Gouvernements.

Quelques membres ayant attiré l'attention du Conseil sur le mauvais état des cimetières et de l'abattoir, il est nommé une Sous-Commission, qui devra rédiger un programme d'améliorations hygiéniques pour Téhéran.

Sont désignés pour faire partie de cette Sous-Commission—leurs Excellences Mohandes-Bachy, Nasem-ul-Etteba, les Drs. Sadowsky et Wischard, M. Lecomte. Il est convenu qu'elle se réunira en ville très prochainement, visitera notamment l'abattoir et les cimetières, et apportera un rapport à la prochaine séance du Conseil.

Le Président dit qu'il a l'intention de demander un crédit à son Altesse Impériale le Grand-Vizir, à l'effet de faire imprimer les procès-verbaux des séances du Conseil et les Règlements Sanitaires, afin de pouvoir les garder dans les archives du Conseil et les distribuer largement aux divers Ministères, ainsi qu'aux Légations étrangères.

Il est convenu, après discussion, que les séances du Conseil Sanitaire auront lieu de préférence le Lundi et 3 heures avant le coucher du soleil.

Le Président communique une lettre de M. Brasseur, voyageur Français, actuellement à Chiraz, donnant la description du lazaret de Dastarjine entre Bouchir et Chiraz. Ce lazaret paraît être convenablement installé et suffisamment pourvu. Il fait connaître, en outre, qu'il a reçu une lettre de Tauris, montrant que cette ville est restée absolument indemne du choléra jusqu'ici et que son Altesse Impériale le Valiad, sur la proposition de ses médecins particuliers, les Drs. Loghman-el-Mamalek et Coppin, a établi des postes quarantenaires sur toutes les routes conduisant à Tauris, notamment à Kaflan Küh, près de Mianeh, à Saudjboulak, et à Ardebil.

Le Conseil approuve hautement ces sages dispositions.

Quelques membres ayant rapporté le bruit qui courait de la constatation de quelques cas de peste à Téhéran, le Dr. Schneider prend à témoins ses collègues médecins, qui d'ailleurs l'approuvent complètement, sur l'invraisemblance de ce bruit et l'impossibilité de l'apparition actuelle de la peste à Téhéran, qui n'en a jamais vu d'épidémie, dont le sol sec et rocailleux, à peu près complètement dépourvu de rats, se prête mal à l'éclosion de la maladie, et surtout en plein été, alors que la peste est plus spécialement une affection des saisons froides et des pays bas et humides, et enfin sans propagation intermédiaire de Linghah, où elle a, d'ailleurs, cessé, jusqu'à la capitale si éloignée de ce point contaminé.

Avant de se séparer, le Conseil procède, conformément au Décret Impérial et aux instructions de son Excellence Mouchir-ed-Dowleh, à la nomination d'un Vice-Président.

Ont obtenu sur 12 votants présents :—

Noms.	Voix.
M. Lavers	4
Le Docteur Olding	3
Son Excellence Mohtachem-Saltaneh	2
Le Docteur Lœw	1
Le Docteur Lindley	1

Il y a, en plus, un bulletin blanc.

M. Lavers est donc proclamé Vice-Président pour l'année, sans aucune observation.

La séance est levée à 7 heures du soir.

Ont signé le présent procès-verbal :

(Signé) MOHTECHEM-SALTANEH.
DR. ODLING.
Baron FALLON
(pour M. Lavers).
REZA GHOLI KHAN.
DR. LŒW.
LECOMTE.
MOHANDES-BACHI.
DR. WALTER.
DR. SADOWSKY.
DR. SCHNEIDER.

Le Président,
(Signé) DR. SCHNEIDER.

Fait à Sabkranié, le 15 Août, 1904.

No. 109.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 172.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, September* 11, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, with reference to my despatch No. 161 of the 1st instant, a translation of a Circular received by me from the Persian Foreign Office, and a copy of my reply thereto, respecting the prohibition of the opening without authority from the Persian Government of silk or cotton factories by foreigners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh to Sir A. Hardinge.

(Translation.)
Your Excellency, *September* 10, 1904.

ACCORDING to information received by the Persian Government, certain foreign subjects have opened cotton and silk factories in Persian territory, and as for this purpose permission from the Persian Government should be obtained, and the conditions of the stipulations made should be observed, and as so far they have not been observed as it was desirable that they should, I have therefore the honour to request that your Excellency will give notice to British subjects that they should not open such factories without referring to and obtaining the permission of the Persian Government; and if they propose to open such factories they should only do so after obtaining permission from the Persian Government, and obtaining the signature of the Foreign Office. (Being then authorized and permitted to do so), [*sic*] take steps to open such factories, so that their own steps should be correct, and in order that it should not lead to difficulties.

(Signed) NASRULLAH.

(Sealed) MUSHIR-ED-DOWLEH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

Your Excellency, *Gulahek, September* 11, 1904.

I HAVE had the honour to receive and have transmitted to my Government your Excellency's Circular note of yesterday's date, respecting the opening of factories ("karkhanayat") by foreign subjects.

I would observe, in reference to the subject, that the requirement of previous permission from the Persian Foreign Office before a foreign trader can open a factory may be regarded as somewhat questionable in view of the clauses in the Treaties respecting the rights of such traders to exercise commerce freely throughout Persia, and I must reserve my right to raise this point in the event of my being instructed to do so. It is obvious that permission by the Persian Foreign Office implies a right of refusal, which might be so exercised as to nullify the commercial privileges enjoyed by our merchants, not merely by the Treaties, but by long usage.

In the meantime, I am sending a copy of your Excellency's Circular to His Majesty's Consuls throughout Persia, and requesting them to advise British subjects to apply through the Legation for permission from the authorities before attempting to open new factories of the kind mentioned in your Excellency's note.

I observe that your note speaks of silk or cotton factories. I would be glad to know whether the permission mentioned in it is required for these alone or the exercise of other, and, if so, of what, forms of commercial industry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 110.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 173.)
My Lord, *Gulahek, September* 11, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the monthly summary of events in Persia.

I would observe, with reference to the statement in the Tehran news that the Amir Bahadur Jeng is to succeed the Sepah Salar as the War Minister, that later information points to a desire on the part of the Grand Vizier himself to exercise direct control over the army, respecting the reorganization of which he recently told Abbas Kuli Khan that he intended very shortly to speak to me.

The release of the murderer of the Russian printer at Meshed for a fine of 100*l.*, collected by public subscription, to which reference is made in the Meshed news, is hardly calculated to promote Russian prestige in Khorassan, and it seems strange that the Russian Consul-General should have been willing to acquiesce in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Summary of Events in Persia not reported in Separate Despatches.

Bushire and Gulf Ports.

OWING to the outbreak of cholera at Shiraz, there has lately been very little business done at Bushire, and the customs receipts have greatly fallen off.

Up to the 22nd July nearly 200 deaths from cholera were said to have occurred at Mohammerah, but after that date the epidemic showed signs of decreasing, and during the ensuing week no cases occurred. At Dizful and Shuster the outbreak seems to have been severe, and it was reported that 3,400 deaths had taken place in the former town up to the 21st July, and that the disease had also spread to the neighbouring Arab tribes, there was, however, some improvement towards the end of the month. Cholera is also said to have appeared at Shargah, Dabai, and other towns on the Pirate Coast.

The Russian Consul-General at Bushire, with his assistant, left for Bombay on the 10th July. They contemplated visiting Poona, Simla, and possibly Quetta.

During a visit paid by the Azam-es-Sultaneh, Governor of Arabistan, to Ahwaz and Mohammerah at the end of July, some negotiations took place between him and the Sarda Arfa regarding the protection of the steamer "Shushan." The latter Chief agreed to maintain the necessary guards in return for a monthly payment of 1,000 tomans, but the Governor considered the sum asked for too high. It was finally arranged that the Sheikh should continue for a short time to keep a guard of fifty men at Shelailieh, and ten men on board the "Shushan," pending the receipt of orders from Tehran as to the permanent arrangements to be made.

Kerman.

The Belgian officer in charge of posts and customs at Kerman has now been appointed Treasury Agent also, and in this latter capacity has issued a notice to say that he will pay pensions and salaries. The arrangement is apparently unpopular among the local officials.

Seistan.

Captain McPherson reports that the punishment of the artillerymen who had assaulted a servant of the Consulate, and whom the Yamin-i-Nizam had persistently endeavoured to screen, was carried out on the 5th August in presence of a Consulate official. The Yamin also apologized for his conduct in the case, which is now at an end.

A Russian officer, who is said to have come from Ashkabad, and to be going to Ladis and Jalk, arrived early in August at Safidab, on the Palankuh route between Baudan and Nasratabad (Ispe). He was accompanied by a Turki Mirza and three Cossacks.

A new Russian Inspector is, it is said, to be appointed to control the section of the Meshed-Seistan telegraph line south of Khaf, the present Russian official remaining in charge of the Meshed-Khaf section.

Colonel McMahon mentions that the harvest both in Afghan and Persian Seistan, which promised earlier in the year to be exceptionally good, has suffered very severely of late from a plague of mice, which bite off the ears of the corn. A similar appearance of large numbers of mice is reported from the Herat district.

The escort to the Consul in Seistan has now been brought up to its authorized strength of one native officer and twenty sowars by the transfer of six men from Colonel McMahon's escort. In this connection it may be noted that, as reported in last month's summary, the new Russian Consul is taking with him to Seistan an escort of twenty-four Cossacks.

Meshed.

Owing to the outbreak of cholera in the town, and a case having occurred in the Consulate, Colonel Minchin, with a portion of his staff, moved out some 30 miles into camp on the 2nd August, leaving Captain Fisher in charge. The number of deaths in Meshed from cholera appears at one period to have amounted to nearly 200 a-day, but by the end of August the disease was decreasing. Quarantine against Persia has been imposed by the Russians at Hondan and Artik, and the Governor of Herat has placed a cordon along the frontiers of Kuhsan and Ghorian. A Russian doctor and a lady doctor were sent to Meshed to treat the cholera-stricken people. Among other victims of the epidemic was the Mutawalli Bashi (Civil Governor) of the Shrine, Prince Haji Saham-ul-Mulk, an old man who has always been on very friendly terms with the British Consulate.

With reference to the murder of a Russian Armenian compositor, which has been mentioned in former summaries, it is now stated that the Russian Consul-General finally agreed to accept 500 tomans as blood-money, and to give his consent for the murderer to leave the Shrine. A public subscription list was circulated, and 1,500 tomans were subscribed, of which 500 were handed over to the Russian Representative and the balance was retained by the Governor.

The Karguzar has notified officially that, owing to the sanctity of the town of Meshed, the Persian Government has strictly prohibited the formation of any clubs there. This order is the result of the recent starting of a club by the Russian community, and the Russian Consul-General has replied that the Russian traders have been told to close it temporarily.

The officer in charge of political affairs in Trans-Caspia intends shortly to visit the Deregez frontier in company with the Persian Karguzar at Ashkabad. Orders have been sent to the Governor of Deregez to make suitable arrangements for his reception.

Herat.

A report has been called for by the Ameer on the requirements of the troops in the Herat province in the way of tents and transport, and this is now being drawn up by the Sipah Salar. An inspection of military frontier outposts has also been ordered, existing buildings are to be repaired, and three new posts to be constructed. Instructions have been issued that all roads leading to Panjdeh and Kushk, with the exception of that viâ Maruchak, are to be closed.

Military Movements in Trans-Caspia.

The reports from Central Asia continue to mention the dispatch of troops, guns, and military stores eastwards, and rumours are rife that the garrison of the Kushk post has lately been considerably increased. On the other hand, frontier garrisons generally appear to be below strength, and a report from Patta Kisar says that the garrison of that important frontier post was being reduced. Colonel Minchin thinks that the Russians are uneasy regarding the attitude of the Turkomans, and that this may account for an increase of military activity.

The Baku correspondent of the Meshed agency mentions a large concentration of troops at that post, and both there and in Krasnovodsk there are rumours that a strong force is shortly to be sent across the Caspian. Information received in Tehran from other sources does not confirm these statements, and is to the effect that, with the exception of an increase to the garrison of a few hundred men, in connection with relief movements, there has been no abnormal concentration in or about Baku.

It may be noted that from the Ashkabad reports of the 21st and 25th July it would appear that drafts from regiments in the Caucasus are being sent there probably either to complete reserve formations or to replace men sent to Manchuria.

Another interesting report is that a railway is being constructed from near Samarkand towards Patta Kisar, with a branch from Bokhara to join it at Karshi. Such a railway would be almost a necessity before any extensive operations could be taken against Afghanistan or India.

Kermanshah.

Captain Gough gave an entertainment at the Consulate on the 5th August in honour of the hoisting of the flag. The Governor and all the chief Notables and officials of the city were present, as well as the Turkish Consul-General and Russian Consul. A dispensary is being started in the Cousulate grounds.

Ispahan.

Reza Kuli Khan, brother of the late Hussain Kuli Khan, Ilkhani of the Bakhtiaris, who for a short time succeeded his brother in the Chiefship, died a few weeks ago at Chahar Mahal. He was an old man, and has latterly taken no part in tribal politics.

Cholera has been steadily increasing in the villages round Ispahan, and has also appeared in several quarters of the town, where it is estimated that some twenty to thirty deaths occur daily. His Royal Highness the Zil-es-Sultan is still at Kumishlu.

Tehran.

The Shah has celebrated the 53rd anniversary of his birth on the 26th August in the usual manner, with the exception of the "public salaam," which was this year omitted on account of the recent cholera epidemic. At the morning reception of his Minister and the Princes of the Royal House an autograph of His Majesty was read, in which the services rendered to the State by the Vizier Azam, his Highness Ain-ed-Dowleh, were extolled, and the higher title of Sadr Azam was conferred upon him. At 10 o'clock the Corps Diplomatique was received, and in the afternoon His Majesty visited the Grand Vizier at his Highness' country house, where he saw the preparations for the evening's illuminations and entertainment, which were carried out on a larger scale than usual, and to which most of the European community were invited.

His Highness the Sipah Salar has offered his resignation to the Shah, as he says he is unable to carry out the proposed army reforms, which, it is understood, the Shah insists upon, but which originate with Amir Bahadur Jang, who will undoubtedly succeed him if, as the doctors think very likely, the question is settled by the death of the present Minister for War.

Amir Bahadur Jang has much influence with His Majesty, and is practically the only firm supporter on whom the Sadr Azam can rely, as his financial reform scheme has alienated the majority of courtiers and officials whose pecuniary interests have suffered thereby. It is even rumoured in town that the recent epidemic, by temporarily diverting

the attention of the people, has prevented a general rising in protest against the wholesale docking of pensions and salaries from which all have suffered.

The Royal College has received no funds for over two years, and his Excellency Nazir-ed-Dowleh, Minister of Education, in whose charge it is, consequently tendered his resignation, which, however, has not been accepted.

The Arfa-ed-Dowleh, Ambassador at Constantinaple, has been made to pay 8,000*l.*, of which 6,000*l.* went to the Shah and 2,000*l.* to the Prime Minister. As the Mushir-ed-Dowleh only paid 6,000*l.* last Nauruz in order to retain his post as Foreign Minister, it was thought that the Arfa-ed-Dowleh was about to succeed him. The change would not be undesirable, but has not as yet taken place.

Several members of the Atabeg's family have been ordered to leave Tehran, on suspicion of intriguing to bring about the return of the ex-Grand Vizier. This move, coupled with the confiscation of property belonging to the Amin-el-Mulk, mother of the Atabeg, shows that the Shah has no present idea of recalling that Minister.

Tehran, August 11, 1904.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Russian Military Movements in Trans-Caspia.

Krasnovodsk Reports.

July 24.—I arrived in Krasnovodsk from Ashkabad. There are now 2,200 troops in and about Ashkabad. I was informed by a Russian officer that work on the Tashkent–Orenburg Railway, which was slack for a time, is now being pushed on vigorously.

The garrison of Krasnovodsk is about 900 cavalry and infantry. Quarters for more troops have been got ready. I believe, but am not certain, that there are about 8,000 troops at Baku, although the people generally think there are many more.

Ashkabad Reports.

July 19.—It is reported 4 guns passed through here going east.

July 20.—One waggon load ammunition sent east; destination said to be Sheikh Junaid.

8 waggon-loads flour went east.

July 21—200 infantry arrived from Krasnovodsk, bearing No. 85 K.

July 25.—100 infantry bearing No. 83 K, and some with No. 7, arrived from Krasnovodsk; also 50 railway soldiers. The latter went east.

There are constant rumours that a large Russian force will shortly arrive in Trans-Caspia to make a demonstration against the Afghans. The Turkomans declare they wil rise against the Russians on the first shot being fired against the Afghans.

July 26.—400 cases ammunition arrived from the west.

July 27.—There are now 4 battalions in or about Ashkabad; also some Cossacks and Frontier Guard Cavalry.

Merv Reports.

July 20.—100 infantry arrived from the east, and are quartered here.

A man just returned from Sheikh Junaid says there are 2,000 there.

July 23.—7 (railway) waggon-loads of rails passed going east.

100 soldiers left Merv for the west.

July 24.—The Turkomans continue to spread news of Russian reverses, although numbers of them are arrested and deported on this account.

July 25.—100 infantry left Merv for the West.

9 waggon loads rails passed going east. The destination of all these rails that keep passing is said to be Tashkent. It is stated that the Tashkent–Orenburg Railway is being rapidly pressed on.

Nowadays, during the 24 hours, 24 trains pass on the main line, *i.e.*, 12 trains each way.

The garrison now consists of 400 men of the 7th battalion, with some Cossacks.

Patakisar Reports.

July 21.—The strength of the Patakisar garrison is being reduced.

Several officers from the Oxus garrisons have lately left for Manchuria.

An affray is reported between wood-cutters and Afghans; the wood-cutters went from the Russian side into Afghanistan.

(Signed) H. SMYTH, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Russian Military Movements in Trans-Caspia for Week ending August 13, 1904.

Krasnovodsk Reports.

July 25.—About 60 infantry arrived from Russia, bearing the No. 2 T.

July 26.—25 infantry passed from Russia to the east.

July 29.—40 infantry with No. 2 T. arrived from Russia.

50 Cossacks left for Russia.

July 30.—32 waggons supplied sent east.

Ashkabad Reports.

July 28.—50 men of the 1st Trans-Caspian Railway battalion arrives from the west.

8 waggons supplies sent east.

July 29.—200 infantry bearing No. 7 sent east.

July 30.—50 infantry and 3 waggons ammunition sent east.

August 1.—3 guns, 40 boxes ammunition, and 24 gunners being No. 2 T sent east.

August 2.—4 waggons supplies sent east.

It is said that all the troops except one battalion are going to be sent to the Afghan frontier.

Sarakhs Reports.

August 2.—The Russians have solicited subscriptions from the Turkomans for Russian sick and wounded; some money has been collected for this purpose.

Merv Reports.

July 27.—At Doshak I saw a train of 37 waggons going east; of these waggons 6 contained rails and 1 contained about 30 infantry.

A train passed Doshak going west, it contained 50 cavalry; this train also picked up 100 Cossacks at Kaahka.

July 28.—At Kaahka. Garrison here 4 guns, 200 or 300 infantry and artillerymen, 60 Cossacks.

July 29.—At Tajend. Garrison here 100 soldiers.

August 2.—At Merv. A train of 35 waggons passed, going east, 7 waggons contained rails.

Samarkand Reports.

July 29.—The garrison here has been warned to be ready to go to Patakisar.

The troops in and round Samarkand consist of 4 battalions infantry, 1,000 Cossacks, 48 guns.

The Russians mistrust Sirdar Ishak Khan and place restrictions on his movements.

The construction of the Tashkent–Orenburg Railway is being pushed on. One train a day leaves Tashkent for Turkestan (on Orenburg Railway).

(Signed) H. SMYTH, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Russian Military Movements in Trans-Caspia for Week ending August 20, 1904.

Baku Reports.

No date, about 10th August. A large Russian force, estimated at 40,000, was at Baku till the 13th July, about which date most of these troops were moved towards Daghestan and Batoum, leaving only 8,000 at Baku in excess of ordinary garrison.

The dispatch of a large force to Turkestan is much talked about.

Krasnovodsk Reports.

July 28.—A Colonel of the Intendance with a small party has come here and made arrangements with the Kavkas Mercury agent and the railway authorities for the reception, temporary accommodation, and forwarding eastwards of a large force said to be coming from Russia in September.

July 29.—350 infantry bearing No. 3 T arrived from Russia and were quartered 5 versts from the city; 50 cavalry left for Russia, said to be for Manchuria.

July 30.—30 waggons barley sent east.

July 31.—160 infantry bearing No. 3 T arrived from Russia.

August 1.—55 infantry bearing No. 3 T arrived from Russia.

I have inquired about troops in Baku, and find there are only 8,000 in addition to the garrison of 3,500.

From the conversation of Russians, and the notices in the streets regarding billeting, &c., it seems certain that a large Russian force is coming here in September to take the Turkestan work in hand.

The idea of a campaign on the Turkestan side is very popular among the officers; but they have no wish to go to Manchuria.

Merv Reports.

August 3.—There passed by night bound east:—

Waggons containing 18 guns	6
" " ammunition	6
" " artillery horses	12
" " " men	10

August 4.—200 infantry arrived in Merv from west.

The Russians have asked the Turkomans to supply 120 men from each Alchin (there are fifty-two Alchins in the Merv district) to protect railway lines of communication (in Manchuria).

The Turkomans are not inclined to supply these men.

August 6.—800 iniantry arrived here from the west.

August 7.—There arrived by night train from the west, 12 guns with horses and men complete, each gun had 7 horses, and each ammunition waggon 6 horses.

August 8.—200 Cossacks arrived from the west.

August 9.—Last night the railway station was cleared of people at 11 P.M. I am informed by the railway servants that this was for the arrival of 24 guns, 10 waggons containing gun ammunition and 22 waggons containing horses and gunners.

These all went on at once by the branch line towards Sheikh Junaid.

The same day 300 infantry arrived here from the west.

A train of 32 waggons also passed eastwards, 12 waggons containing infantry, the other 20 closed waggons were also said to contain guns and ammunition: this train load said to be for Kerki.

The Turkomans are in a nervous state.

The Russians have arrested several Afghans, and for the last four days traders, &c., have not been allowed to go to Khushk from Merv.

Afghans have ceased coming from the Herat direction.

It is said that the Sheikh Junaid garrison is being secretly increased by troops sent by night trains from Ashkabad direction.

Strength of garrison now here (Merv):—

1,500 infantry.
250 Cossacks.
12 guns, with horses, waggons, &c., complete.

Sarakhs Report.

August 5.—31 camel loads' supplies sent Pul-i-Khatun.

August 9.—14 reservists settled here have been recalled to the colours and sent to Merv.

August 10.—5 Cossacks who came in from Pul-i-Khatun say 20 Cossacks there have died of cholera.

Charjui Reports.

July 22.—30 infantry passed from Kerki direction towards Merv.

July 29.—50 infantry passed from Merv direction towards Kerki.

It is rumoured that large numbers of troops are shortly to be sent to the Afghan frontier.

July 30.—40 infantry passed by rail, going west.

August 1.—There is much talk of Russian reverses in Manchuria, in spite of strict orders against such conversation.

August 5.—80 infantry passed by rail, going east.

4 men have been arrested as spies.

Patakisar Reports.

This Patakisar newsagent arrived in Meshed on the 7th August.

When he left Patakisar the garrison there was—

Infantry battalions..	3	
Gunners..	200	with 6 guns.
Artillery horses	200	with 6 guns.
Cossacks..	200	

A strict watch was being kept on the Afghan side of the river.

Relations with the Afghans were not cordial.

En route he noticed that there were—

At Kerki	2 battalions infantry. 1 battery artillery.
At Charjui	1 battalion infantry.

On the 27th or 28th July he saw at Ashkabad two battalions infantry being dispatched eastwards, it was said for Khushk.

Samarkand Reports.

August 2.—The garrison remains as reported on the 29th July.

Three days ago supplies of wheat, barley, and fodder were ordered to be got ready for dispatch to the frontier.

A register of all horse, donkey, and cart transport available with private owners has been prepared, the owners being warned to produce the transport if required. I hope to get this list. I shall then go on to Andijan.

Deregez Reports.

August 6.—A trader from Artik reports that during the last week Russian troops with guns and officers in two instalments have passed Artik Railway Station, going east. Yesterday also 3 waggons containing infantry and guns passed, going east.

August 13.—Two traders who came from Artik 9 days ago have informed the Governor of Deregez that lots of trains are being sent, one after the other, in the Merv direction containing arms, ammunition, and soldiers, and that these are being sent to Sheikh Junaid.

This year, contrary to their usual custom, the Russians have taken all the troops from the Ak Tappeh camp during the hot weather, and have sent them to Sheikh Junaid.

The contractors have been warned to collect large quantities of supplies for new troops expected from Russia.

(Signed) H. SMYTH, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Russian Military Movements in Trans-Caspia for Week ending August 27, 1904.

Ashkabad Reports.

August 4.—50 men 1st Trans-Caspian Railway Battalion arrived from west.

August 5.—The Turkomans, while openly professing their loyalty and willingness to fight for the Russians, are secretly bitterly hostile to them, and are waiting for an opportunity against them.

August 6.—A Brigadier-General arrived from the west, said to be on inspection duty.

August 7.—It is stated that no operations on the Afghan frontier will be undertaken until time has been allowed for a deliberate mobilization.

It is also stated that Kuropatkin has telegraphed for 8 battalions of the troops trained by him (now in the Reserve).

August 8.—About 200 infantry passed from west to east. No one is allowed to approach troops passing like this, or to go near the trains that pass in the night. The Russians are very suspicious, spies abound, a spirit of disquiet prevails. Talk on political or military subjects is prohibited.

August 9.—100 men 2nd Trans-Caspian Infantry left eastwards, also the Brigadier-General before mentioned.

August 12.—50 infantry passed from west to east.

100 infantry were said to be going to join them secretly here.

August 13.—Two men of Badghis—Barallah Khan and Rahmatullah Bai, both enemies of the Ameer of Afghanistan—have come here to offer the services of the people of Badghis in a campaign against the Afghans. They only stipulate that they are not to be left to the mercy of the Afghans afterwards.

August 14.—2 waggons cartridges arrived from west.

The following is the strength of the garrison here (Ashkabad) :—

Kuban Cossacks	100
Frontier Guard cavalry	400
Turkoman cavalry	100
Gunners (Turkestan Artillery)	50
Two battalions Trans-Caspian Rifles	2,000
One battalion (this battalion apparently a mixture of different companies of the Geok-Tepe (? reserve) battalion)	1,000
Total	3,650

Samarkand Reports.

This man has just returned to Meshed, where the report was given.

The artillery at Samarkand—see Samarkand Report of the 29th July—has, in addition to the 48 guns previously reported, 4 pompoms and 2 machine guns. There are also 2,000 rifles in store.

In a Russian paper of the 29th June the Tashkent–Orenburg Railway was said to still have a gap of 200 versts not joined up; the construction work is being pushed on.

A railway is being built from Djuma Station—one station west of Samarkand—to Patakisar. A railway is also being built from Bokhara to join this railway at Karshi.

The Bokhara army is being trained by Russian instructors, but the officers are Bokhariots.

Sarakhs Reports.

August 17.—The Turkomans here have been warned to supply 450 camels for local use.

(Signed) H. SMYTH, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

No. 111.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 174. Confidential.)

Gulahek, September 11, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a report from a secret informant in the service of the Persian Government, the contents of which were left out of the monthly summary in which I had directed them to be incorporated.

It is possible that the statements which this informant makes as to the effect of General Kuropatkin's proposals for the invasion of India through Khorassan on the minds of the Persian Ministers may be exaggerated in accordance with the Oriental desire to say what the writer thinks most pleasing, and that his report is to some extent embroidered. It is, however, a fact that whereas some time ago, at the request of the Russian Legation, the Shah ordered the press here to be reserved in its comments on the Russian reverses in Manchuria, this order has now been cancelled, and the native newspapers have for some time past been again writing with great freedom on the subject.

A full translation of General Kuropatkin's alleged secret plan for the conquest of India has appeared in the "Habl-ul-Matin," a Persian newspaper published at Calcutta, and extensively read in this country, where, after having been for some years prohibited by the Atabeg-i-Azam, it is now once more allowed free circulation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Report by a Secret Informant in the service of the Persian Government.

(Translation.)

I REPORTED on a previous occasion that certain discussions had taken place in the presence of His Majesty the Shah, concerning the Russo-Japanese war, and that certain Ministers had met to further discuss the matter, and that the result had been an order to the Nadim-es-Sultan to the effect that in future the Tehran newspapers were at liberty to publish accounts of the Japanese victories over the Russian arms without restraint.

According to what I have heard and investigations made, the particulars are as follows:—

Before the coming to light and publication in Europe of General Kuropatkin's schemes, His Imperial Majesty the Shah and the Vazir Azam had given orders that the newspapers, especially the "Iran" and "Ettela" should write in a reserved manner regarding Russian defeats. After the publication of General Kuropatkin's

plan, and when the secret plans of Russia in regard to Persia came out, special orders were given by the Shah to the Vazir Azam, and in turn to the Director of the "Iran" and "Ettela" to publish in future without reserve or consideration any reliable news regarding the war, and not to consider the feelings of the Russians.

Some days ago the Vazir Azam and some of the Ministers who were in the Shah's presence, again discussed this question, and the following proposition was considered: When the power of the Russian Government in the Far East will have received a severe blow, and after it has incurred all these losses, will it not endeavour to recoup itself in another quarter? For the present, the Russian frontiers present no easier prey where it has, through the unfortunate undertakings of the Atabeg, many excuses, foot-holds, and pledges (with which to pursue its aims). The conclusion arrived at by the Ministers in the presence of His Majesty was this:—

The Persian Government should feel a special friendship and unity with the British Government which is always desirous, for many reasons, of the maintenance of Persian independence, and the Persian Government should again make England their protector in order to be protected in the future from Russian aggression.

This question was, moreover, put before His Majesty, that if the Japanese had not been protected by Great Britain, that little State would never have been able to fight and hold its own with Russia; and if Great Britain were to help Persia as she has helped Japan, Persia would always be free from Russia.

I hear that the Shah recognized the justice of all these observations, and gave permission to the Grand Vizier and other Ministers of State to bring about closer and friendlier relations with England by every possible means.

No. 112.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 22. Commercial.)

Gulahek, August 30, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my despatch No. 21 and of my telegram No. 15, Commercial, that I signed the "Règlement Douanier" with M. Naus, in duplicate, yesterday evening, the Government of India having informed me in their telegram of the 25th August that they accepted the arrangement proposed by me, and had no further suggestions to make.

There are a few alterations of a purely verbal character in the "Règlement" signed by us yesterday, which I have the honour to inclose herewith. I append a list of them prepared by Mr. Lindsay, who collated and compared the two documents. The only non-verbal one relates to currency; the draft Russian "Règlement" having been the one sent home by me, the Russian "rouble" is mentioned in it instead of the French "franc" mentioned in our Convention, and therefore in the "Règlement" giving effect to it.

A few additional custom-houses of the 3rd class are established in the Persian Gulf for local trade, viz., Godari Balutak, in Arabistan, and Aselu, Taheri, Schirou, Mogham, and Mogu, in the Customs division known as that of the "South." Two similar stations are created on the Afghan border, viz., Girdi Char and Milek, in order to deal with the export of grain from Seistan into Afghan territory. On the other hand, Sirri, as already reported by me, and Naiband disappear from the list of stations in the South. I did not think it necessary to trouble your Lordship or the Government of India with inquiries as to whether I could accept these alterations of detail, to which we should have had no ground for objecting, and which are of no importance and significance.

Your Lordship will observe that the text of the "Tableau" annexed to the "Règlement Douanier," which has now been formally accepted by Russia, strengthens, and, indeed, indirectly affirms, our contention that all the ports of the South, from Mohammerah to Gwetter inclusive, are ports of the Persian Gulf. Thus, under the head of "Mohammerah," is mentioned among the "attributions" of the custom-house of that port "Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique," and the same holds good of Gwetter and Charbar. We may reasonably contend that if Russia considers that these places are not ports of the Persian Gulf for customs purposes she should have objected in an instrument

signed by her Representative to the use in relation to them of the term "other ports of the Persian Gulf."

Nevertheless, I thought it desirable, before signing the "Règlement Douanier," to make the formal reservation the text of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, and of which M. Naus took, as your Lordship will observe, formal act. The inclusion of a formal reference to the engagement of 1897 in a document dependent on, and thus in some sort attached to, our Commercial Convention seemed a useful and opportune measure of emphatically reaffirming its validity. I trust your Lordship will approve my having done so.

I have at the same time the honour to inclose a copy of a Supplementary Declaration exchanged between M. Naus and myself, which embodies the amendments desired by the Government of India in the matter of the penal clauses of the "Règlement." There is a slight difference between the text of these amendments and that prepared by M. Naus in the note of the 10th August, which I had the honour to transmit in my despatch No. 21, Commercial, of the 15th instant.

I proposed, in the last two paragraphs of that text, and M. Naus accepted, the substitution for the words "pour des motifs spéciaux" of the words "en cas de récidive et pour des motifs spéciaux," so as to limit the right of the Customs to confiscate to cases where the offence had been repeated, and protect the ignorant camel men and native traders, who are the natural object of the Government of India's solicitude. I also substituted for the words "le délinquant paye la contre-valeur de la marchandise comme amende" the words "le délinquant consigne la contre-valeur de la marchandise pour garantie de l'amende."

The third paragraph in the Supplementary Declaration has relation to Kuh-i-Malik-i-Siah. His Majesty's Consul in Seistan has called my attention to the inconvenience occasioned to traders by the fact that the nearest first-class custom-house at which all the formalities required of them can be performed is Nasratabad, in Seistan, which is nearly 100 miles from the actual frontier.

I accordingly asked M. Naus, and he agreed, to give us a first-class bureau at Kuh-i-Malik-i-Siah, Ziarat. I have the honour to transmit copies of my correspondence with the Government of India on this subject. As the appointment of one of our own frontier officers as Consular Delegate at Kuh-i-Malik-i-Siah, upon which the establishment of a first-class bureau to some extent depends, is a matter necessitating some correspondence and formalities, I thought it best to obtain the insertion of a pledge by M. Naus that he would make this change in the event of His Majesty's Legation requiring it, and reserving for fuller discussion with our authorities in Seistan, as well as with India, the question as to whether we should take advantage of the right thus given us or not.

I must, in justice to M. Naus, say that in all these discussions he showed the most conciliatory disposition to meet the wishes of the Government of India whenever conveyed by me, and in the matter of the penalties he has, as your Lordship will observe, made concessions to me which he steadily and successfully resisted when they were demanded by my Russian colleague, and which do not appear in the Russian "Règlement," though the Russians will no doubt lay claim to them when they get to know of their grant to us.

The new "Règlement" is to come into force on the 1st of next month. I am telegraphing to that effect to His Majesty's Consuls in Persia.

M. Naus informed me yesterday that the new custom-houses which he had recently established at the cost of 2,700*l.* at Chart, Gumbat-i-Kaboos, and Barim, on the Astrabad frontier, had just been raided and destroyed by the Turcomans, and that Baron Straudach, the European in charge of them, and all his staff had had to fly to Astrabad. He would, he said, have to establish a stronger force of armed Customs guards on that frontier, as he could not count on the assistance of the Governor of Astrabad, who, on the contrary, always worked, for corrupt reasons, against the Customs Administration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Règlement légal pour la Perception des Droits de Douane à l'Entrée et à la Sortie de l'Empire de Perse, arrêté par l'Administration des Douanes, d'accord avec la Légation d'Angleterre à Téhéran, en exécution de l'Article 5 de la Déclaration Anglo-Persane du 9 Février, 1903.

CHAPITRE I.—*Redevabilité des Droits.*

ARTICLE 1er. Le présent Règlement légal fixe les droits de douane dans l'Empire Persan.

Art. 2. Tous les objets, marchandises et denrées, sauf ceux qui passent en franchise de droits, sont passibles des droits chaque fois qu'ils sont importés ou exportés, à moins qu'ils ne soient prouvés à la satisfaction de l'Administration des Douanes que ces objets, marchandises, ou denrées quelconques ont déjà acquitté les droits lors d'une précédente importation ou exportation.

Art. 3. Les marchandises importées en Perse et qui proviennent d'un pays jouissant du traitement de la nation la plus favorisée sont soumises au seul paiement des droits de douane fixés dans le Tarif légalement en vigueur et aux taxes énumérées dans l'Article 7 du présent Règlement légal. Tous les autres impôts ou taxes, tels que octroi, "khanat," "meydan," "kapandari," et autres sont à jamais supprimés. Toutes les taxes de "raghdari" qu'on percevait jusqu'à présent pour l'entretien des routes sont également abolies, et il n'en peut être fixé de nouvelles sous forme de taxes de route ou de barrière, sauf sur les routes carrossables comportant des travaux d'art et dont la concession a déjà été ou serait accordée par Firman spécial.

Art. 4. Les droits sur les marchandises imposées autrement qu'à la valeur sont calculés sur la base des nombres, poids, ou mesures constatés ensuite de la vérification des agents de l'Administration des Douanes.

En ce qui concerne les marchandises imposées d'après la valeur, les droits sont calculés sur la valeur déclarée par les intéressés, conformément aux règles fixées par les Articles 17, 18, et 19 ci-après.

Art. 5. Les droits de douane sont payables au comptant, préalablement à l'enlèvement des marchandises.

Art. 6. Les marchandises sont le gage des droits et la Douane ne peut consentir, dans aucun cas, à leur enlèvement avant que ceux-ci, de même que les autres taxes déterminées par l'Article 7, aient été acquittés.

CHAPITRE II.—*Tarif des Droits de Douane.*

Art. 7. Les droits à percevoir par les Douanes sont fixés ainsi qu'il suit :—

1. *Droits de douane sur les marchandises importées (droits d'entrée).*
2. *Droits de douane sur les marchandises exportées (droits de sortie).*
3. *Droits de chancellerie.*

Le droit de chancellerie, indépendamment de la somme des droits de douane à prélever, est fixé à 2 krans par feuille de déclaration, requête ou documents quelconques présentés à la Douane par les personnes intéressées.

4. *Droits de plombs, cachets, et étiquettes de contrôle.*

Pour chaque plomb apposé par la Douane il est perçu 3 chaïs et pour chaque cachet de cire 1 chaï.

Pour chaque étiquette de contrôle apposée par la Douane sur les paquets, bouteilles, ou autres récipients contenant des marchandises soumises à ce régime, il est perçu 1 chaï et pour chaque étiquette de contrôle apposée sur les colis vérifiés pour permettre leur enlèvement de la Douane il est perçu 3 chaïs.

5. *Droits pour le séjour des marchandises dans les magasins, hangars, et enclos de la Douane et dans les magasins des entrepôts publics.*

Les marchandises déposées dans les magasins, hangars, et enclos où la Douane assume la responsabilité de leur conservation (voir Article 89 et suivants) sont passibles d'un droit de magasinage.

Ce droit est calculé pour tout le temps que la marchandise passe dans les locaux douaniers à partir du jour de la vérification et dans tous les cas, pas plus tard qu'à partir du dernier jour du délai fixé pour la présentation des documents de vérification (voir Article 88).

Les négociants ont la faculté de demander que leurs marchandises soient déposées à leur choix soit dans les magasins, soit sous les hangars, soit simplement dans les enclos de la Douane sous bâche ou à découvert.

Il est fait exception pourtant en ce qui concerne—

(*a.*) Les colis contenant des marchandises précieuses, telles que les objets dans la composition desquels il entre de l'or ou de l'argent, les bijoux, les montres, les tissus de soie, ainsi que tous les petits colis d'un poids inférieur à 2 batmans, lesquels doivent toujours être déposés dans les magasins fermés ;

(*b.*) Les marchandises promptement inflammables, dangereuses, insalubres, et dont le voisinage peut nuire à d'autres ; ces marchandises sont exclues des magasins et ne peuvent séjourner que sous les hangars et dans les enclos.

Les taxes de magasinage sont fixées ainsi qu'il suit :—

(*a.*) Pour les marchandises déposées dans les magasins fermés :

(1.) Pour les tapis, les tissus et les fils, les habillements, les épiceries, les liquides alimentaires, le thé, le café, les denrées alimentaires, la mercerie et les meubles, pour les trente premiers jours à partir du jour fixé ci-dessus, à 6 chaïs par 10 batmans, avec un accroissement progressif d'un cinquième de chaï par jour jusqu'au quatre-vingt-dixième jour.

(2.) Pour les autres marchandises déposées dans les magasins fermés, les taxes précitées sont réduites au tiers du Tarif préindiqué.

(*b.*) Pour les marchandises de toute espèce déposées dans les hangars ou sous bâches, les taxes précitées sont réduites au cinquième du Tarif préindiqué.

(*c.*) Pour les marchandises non bâchées, déposées dans les endroits non couverts, ainsi que pour le naphte et le pétrole, les taxes préindiquées sont réduites au dixième du Tarif préindiqué.

Passé ce délai de quatre-vingt-dix jours, les marchandises doivent être transférées du magasin d'entrée dans les magasins d'entrepôts.

Les marchandises déposées dans les magasins des entrepôts publics sont passibles du chef de leur séjour dans les dits magasins d'une taxe d'un sixième de chaï par jour et par 10 batmans de marchandises.

6. *Droits de manipulation des marchandises.*

Ce droit est fixé par un Tarif spécial à convenir entre la Douane et les personnes intéressées.

7. *Droits pour l'usage des grues appartenant à la Douane.*

Dans les ports où le Gouvernement possède des grues, il est perçu pour l'usage de ces gues une taxe de 1 chaï par 100 batmans, avec un minimum de 1 chaï par colis.

8. En compensation des frais résultant pour l'Administration des Douanes de la surveillance à faire exercer dans les entrepôts, les propriétaires de ces entrepôts devront payer une taxe de 5 krans par jour de travail y nécessitant la présence des employés.

9. Il est entendu que pour toutes les taxes préindiquées la perception ne pourra être inférieure à 1 chaï, et que la fraction du chaï sera toujours arrondie au chaï supérieure.

Art. 8. Dans le cas où le change du kran par rapport au franc Français viendrait à baisser de plus de 10 pour cent et se maintiendrait tel plus d'un mois, le Gouvernement Persan aurait la faculté, après la constatation du fait par les principales banques, de hausser proportionnellement les taux des droits spécifiques fixés conformément aux Tarifs en vigueur.

Pour le cas d'une hausse dans le cours du kran dépassant 10 pour cent et se maintenant telle durant plus d'un mois, l'initiative de la proposition de l'abaissement proportionnel des susdits Tarifs appartiendrait aux pays étrangers intéressés, et le Gouvernement Persan serait tenu d'accorder le dit abaissement.

Art. 9. Les droits spécifiques inscrits dans le Tarif doivent être perçus intégralement sur les quantités présentées à l'importation et à l'exportation, et sans égard à la qualité, à la valeur relative, et à l'état de la marchandise.

Toutefois, lorsqu'il est dûment justifié d'événements, ayant détérioré les marchandises en cours de transport, et s'il est reconnu qu'il n'y a aucune intention frauduleuse, le déclarant ou propriétaire aura la faculté de réclamer le triage et la destruction ou la réexportation des marchandises avariées.

Remarque.—En outre, dans des cas exceptionnels, notamment lorsque des marchandises auront été avariées en cours de transport, des réductions de droits proportionnelles à la perte de valeur pourront être accordées, mais seulement à l'intervention de l'Administration Centrale des Douanes.

Art. 10. A l'égard des marchandises imposées à raison d'un nombre ou d'un poids déterminé, les droits sont dus lorsqu'il s'agit de plus fortes ou de moindres quantités, proportionnellement aux taux indiqués au Tarif, comme si cette proportion était spécifiée à chaque article. Les droits se perçoivent dans la même proportion pour les marchandises tarifées à la valeur.

Art. 11. L'unité de poids pour les marchandises imposées d'après cette base est le batman dit de Tauris de 640 miscals de Perse, équivalent à 7·27 livres Russes et à 2 kilog. 970 grammes de France.

Art. 12. Les droits sur les marchandises qui sont indiquées dans le Tarif comme devant acquitter les droits d'après le poids brut, sont calculés sur le poids réel de la marchandise, y compris le poids de ceux des emballages qui, d'après les usages du commerce, passent aux acheteurs avec la marchandise, notamment les bidons, futailles, bouteilles, cruchons, ou flacons, contenant les liquides, les pots et boîtes de toutes espèces, les cartons, les enveloppes de papier ou de toile, et tous autres emballages qui ne peuvent ou ne doivent être séparés de la marchandise sans la détériorer ou sans modifier la forme sous laquelle elle est habituellement présentée pour la vente en gros ou en détail.

Art. 13. A l'égard des autres marchandises acquittant les droits au poids et pour lesquelles le Tarif n'indique pas qu'elles sont imposées d'après le poids brut, les importateurs doivent stipuler dans leur déclaration s'ils désirent que les droits soient calculés—

Soit d'après le poids net réel, c'est-à-dire, d'après le poids de la marchandise dépouillée de tous ses emballages;

Soit d'après le poids net légal, c'est-à-dire, le poids cumulé de la marchandise et de tous ses emballages quelconques, défalcation faite de la tare légale.

A défaut d'indication dans la déclaration de l'option préindiquée, les droits sont toujours calculés d'après le poids net légal.

Art. 14. La tare légale sur les marchandises imposées au poids est fixée comme suit :—

1. Pour les faïences, porcelaines, verreries, glaces non encadrées, et verres de vitrage, en caisses ou futailles, à 40 pour cent du poids brut total.

2. Pour toutes autres marchandises :

(*a.*) En caisses ou futailles, à 20 pour cent du poids brut total;

(*b.*) En paniers, canastres, ou autres emballages en cuir, à 8 pour cent du poids brut total;

(*c.*) En nattes, sacs, ou autres emballages analogues, à 3 pour cent du poids brut total.

Le calcul de la tare n'est pas applicable aux emballages qui ne recouvrent qu'imparfaitement la marchandise, tels, par exemple, ceux faits de planchettes, à claire voie, &c.

Art. 15. Les déclarants sont tenus de présenter les marchandises à la vérification en les dépouillant de leurs emballages, et ils sont également tenus de les faire remballer, l'Administration des Douanes n'assumant, d'ailleurs, aucune responsabilité du chef des pertes ou avaries qui pourraient résulter de ces manipulations, lorsque, bien entendu, elles ont été effectuées par les soins des déclarants.

Toutefois, lorsque les déclarants présentent soit les factures originales ou notes de fabricants ou commerçants en gros, soit des notes spécificatives de l'espèce, du poids et de la valeur des marchandises contenues dans chaque colis, la Douane devra se borner à faire vider, suivant l'importance de l'expédition, un ou plusieurs colis qu'elle désigne spécialement à cet effet. Mais si l'espèce des marchandises, le poids ou la valeur qui résultent de cette vérification par épreuve révèlent des différences supérieures à 5 pour cent des éléments de la déclaration, la Douane exigera que tous les colis soient vidés.

Art. 16. Pour tous les produits importés ou exportés en vrac, l'importateur ou l'exportateur doit mentionner le poids net dans la déclaration prescrite.

Quant aux marchandises exemptes de droits, importées ou exportées en colis, il est tenu de déclarer le poids brut des colis; les agents de l'Administration calculent le poids net en déduisant du poids brut la tare fixée par l'Article 14.

Art. 17. A l'égard des marchandises imposées d'après la valeur, les importateurs sont tenus de déclarer par écrit la valeur sur laquelle ils désirent que les droits soient calculés.

Art. 18. L'importateur doit déclarer séparément la valeur des marchandises contenues dans le même colis lorsque, tarifées d'après cette base, la valeur des unes diffère de celle des autres.

Toutefois, lorsqu'il s'agit d'articles de mercerie ou de fantaisie ayant une certaine affinité entre eux ou formant un assortiment dont la valeur ne dépasse pas 100 tomans, on peut se borner à déclarer la valeur globale.

Art. 19. La valeur à déclarer en douane est celle que les marchandises ont en lieu d'origine ou de production, augmentée des frais d'emballage, d'achat, d'assurance, et de transport jusqu'au lieu d'importation ou d'exportation.

Art. 20. Si la Douane juge insuffisante la valeur déclarée, elle peut, à son choix, demander aux déclarants de souscrire une déclaration supplémentaire ou bien retenir définitivement les marchandises, en payant aux intéressés le montant de la valeur déclarée par eux, augmentée de 10 pour cent à titre d'indemnité.

La Douane est tenue d'effectuer le dit paiement le plus tôt possible, et au plus tard quinze jours après le moment où la préemption a été notifiée aux déclarants.

Art. 21. Si l'intéressé en fait la demande, les marchandises préemptées peuvent lui être rendues moyennant le paiement des droits supplémentaires dus et des frais, ainsi que d'une amende dont le montant est fixé suivant les circonstances par le Directeur des Douanes de la province ou sur appel par l'Administration Centrale.

Cette amende ne pourra pas être supérieure à 10 pour cent de la différence entre le prix de la marchandise déclaré par le propriétaire et celui évalué par la Douane.

Art. 22. Les marchandises préemptées qui n'ont pas été rétrocédées à l'intéressé sont vendues au mieux des intérêts du Gouvernement. Sur le produit de la vente on prélève la somme payée à l'intéressé conformément à l'Article 20, ainsi que les droits dus et les frais. Le surplus, s'il y en a un, est versé au Trésor de l'État.

Art. 23. En cas de changement au Tarif, le Tarif applicable est celui qui existe au moment de l'inscription en douane des marchandises au premier bureau d'entrée ou au bureau de sortie.

Art. 24. Dans le cas où l'on présenterait à l'entrée en Perse des marchandises dont la classification est douteuse ou n'a pas été prévue par le Tarif, l'Administration Centrale des Douanes a le droit d'en décréter la tarification par assimilation aux marchandises avec lesquelles elles ont le plus d'analogie.

Art. 25. Toutes contestations sur l'application des Tarifs de droit d'entrée ou de sortie qui surgissent entre les intéressés et les agents de la Douane sont jugées en premier ressort par le Directeur des Douanes de la province, à l'intervention du Consul de la Puissance à laquelle appartient le propriétaire de la marchandise en litige ou de son Délégué.

Il est toujours loisible à ce dernier d'interjeter appel de la décision intervenue, et dans ce cas le litige est porté devant l'Administration Centrale des Douanes à Téhéran, où il est jugé définitivement à l'intervention du Ministre de la Puissance à laquelle appartient le propriétaire de la marchandise ou de son Délégué.

Art. 26. Toutes les fois que les agents vérificateurs ont des doutes sur la nature ou l'espèce d'une marchandise soumise à leur vérification, ils en suspendent l'admission après en avoir référé au chef local de la Douane. Ces agents prélèvent un échantillon de la marchandise en litige, qui est envoyé accompagné d'un rapport fournissant tous les renseignements propres à éclaircir la difficulté, au Directeur des Douanes de la province chargé de statuer.

Cependant, s'il est reconnu que la déclaration a été faite de bonne foi, l'intéressé doit être autorisé, s'il en fait la demande par écrit, à prendre immédiatement possession de la marchandise sous la condition de consigner le droit le plus élevé que l'on suppose être applicable et de s'engager à s'en rapporter à tous égards à ce qui sera décidé après que le litige aura été jugé conformément à la procédure stipulée par l'Article précédent.

Chapitre III.—*Exemptions.*

Art. 27. Indépendamment des marchandises qui sont exemptées des droits de douane par les Tarifs, sont aussi dispensés du paiement des droits—

1. Les objets importés de l'étranger ou exportés pour compte et par ordre de Sa Majesté le Schah.

2. Les chameaux ou autres bêtes de somme, ainsi que les tentes, tapis et tous objets nécessaires au voyage des personnes se rendrant aux lieux saints ou qui en reviennent, à la condition que ces objets soient réellement leur propriété et ne fassent pas l'objet d'un commerce.

3. Les objets importés pour l'usage personnel des Représentants des Puissances étrangères accrédités auprès de Sa Majesté le Schah. Le bénéfice de la franchise

s'étend également au personnel composant ces Missions, c'est-à-dire, aux Conseillers, Secrétaires, Drogmans, et Élèves Drogmans attachés aux Ambassades ou Légations, aussi qu'aux membres du Corps Consulaire de carrière, soit les Consuls, Vice-Consuls, et leurs Drogmans ou Secrétaires étrangers, dûment accrédités auprès du Gouvernement Persan.

Pour être admis en exemption des droits l'envoi doit être accompagné d'une déclaration du destinataire des objets, indiquant le nombre et les marques des colis, la nature des objets, ainsi que leur quantité et leur valeur, si c'est possible. Le destinataire doit certifier en outre sur cette déclaration que les objets sont à son usage personnel. Dans les localités où résident des Agents du Corps Diplomatique ou Consulaire de grades différents, cette déclaration doit être visée par le chef de la Mission ou du Consulat. La déclaration est annexée à un permis d'importation qui sert à la vérification, laquelle doit, en général, être sommaire, c'est-à-dire, bornée simplement à la reconnaissance extérieure des colis et de leurs marques. Cependant en cas de soupçon grave d'abus, les colis peuvent être retenus et le Directeur local en réfère d'urgence à l'Administration Centrale, laquelle décide sur l'admission après s'être entendue avec le Ministre ou Représentant de la nationalité intéressée. En toute hypothèse les cachets officiels étrangers doivent être respectés.

Tous ces avantages et privilèges n'appartiennent qu'aux Agents Diplomatiques ou Consulaires des pays où les Agents Diplomatiques ou Consulaires de Sa Majesté le Schah jouissent, sous ce rapport, des droits de la nation la plus favorisée.

De même est exempte de toute visite, toute la correspondance (lettres, lettres chargées et colis postaux) des Ambassades, Légations, et Consulats des Puissances étrangères venant de l'étranger ou y expédiée par poste ou par des courriers spéciaux.

Mais il est entendu que la dispense de visite n'est pas applicable aux valises, plis ou colis quelconques ne portant pas de cachets officiels qui seraient transportés par les courriers de Légation ou de Consulat.

4. Les bagages des voyageurs comprenant les habillements et les effets de corps à leur usage, à l'exclusion des objets neufs et de ceux qui pourraient être envisagés comme objets de commerce. A moins d'une autorisation de l'Administration Centrale des Douanes, l'exemption ne s'applique pas aux bagages importés plus de deux mois après l'arrivée du voyageur lui-même.

Les voyageurs étrangers munis d'un passeport en règle pour franchir la frontière sont autorisés à importer en exemption des droits de douane les mêmes quantités de vivres ou d'objets destinés à leur usage personnel, mais sans que l'exemption puisse pour l'ensemble dépasser 2½ tomans par passeport.

5. Les habillements, linges de corps, de lit et de table, ainsi que les meubles de toute espèce, à l'exclusion des boissons, denrées, marchandises ou objets de commerce, importés par des personnes qui viennent s'établir en Perse, à la condition que les objets ne soient pas neufs et portent des traces apparentes d'usage.

6. Le bétail que les habitants étrangers conduisent en pacage sur les terres situées sur le territoire de l'Empire près des frontières et celui qui est conduit par des habitants de la Perse en pacage sur des terres situées sur les frontières hors de la Perse.

7. Les marchandises d'origine ou de fabrication indigène revenant de l'étranger, soit qu'elles y aient été refusées ou non vendues, soit qu'elles n'aient pu y être admises par suite de prohibition ou de tout autre empêchement de force majeure.

8. Les sacs renfermant les dépêches ou correspondances postales, à l'exclusion formelle des sacs ou colis renfermant des colis postaux ou des colis d'échantillons, sont exempts de la visite et des autres formalités douanières, pourvu qu'ils soient fermés et scellés par une agence postale étrangère et remis aux agents de l'Administration des Postes de la Perse.

Chapitre IV.—*Prohibitions.*

Art. 28. Sont prohibés à l'entrée—

1. Les armes à feu de toute espèce.

2. Les munitions pour armes à feu de toute espèce, telles que poudre, cartouches, capsules, projectiles, &c., ainsi que, d'une manière générale, tous les produits explosifs simples ou composés ayant un pouvoir détonnant égal ou supérieur à celui de la poudre à canon ordinaire, à la seule exception des feux d'artifice pour divertissements.

3. Les monnaies autres que celles en or ou en argent.

4. Les couleurs d'aniline sèches ou liquides, ainsi que toutes les teintures sèches ou liquides dans la composition desquelles il entre de l'aniline.

5. Les livres, journaux, imprimés, écrits, images, emblêmes, et objets quelconques ayant un caractère séditieux ou contraire à la religion ou aux bonnes mœurs.

Art. 29. Sont prohibés à la sortie, les tapis teints à l'aide de couleurs d'aniline ou de couleurs dans la composition desquelles il entre de l'aniline.

Art. 30. Indépendamment des prohibitions mentionnées à l'Article 28 de ce Règlement, l'importation ou l'exportation d'autres marchandises peuvent être interdites soit dans un intérêt de préservation ou de sécurité sociale, soit pour empêcher l'exportation de produits qu'il serait momentanément nécessaire de réserver, afin d'assurer l'alimentation publique.

Art. 31. Le Sadre-Azam, ou Premier Ministre, est également autorisé à accorder, dans des cas spéciaux, des dispenses à la disposition de l'Article 28, qui interdit l'importation des armes à feu, des munitions et des produits explosifs.

Chaque autorisation de l'espèce doit stipuler, conformément aux remarques des Nos. 3 et 33 du Tarif (A), le montant de la taxe de dispense à acquitter aux bureaux d'entrée et, en ce qui concerne les produits explosifs, les mesures de précaution que les intéressés doivent observer pour acheminer les transports à travers le pays.

Art. 32. Toute importation, de même que toute exportation ou tentative d'exportation effectué en violation, soit des Articles 28 et 29, soit d'un Arrêté spécial pris en exécution de l'Article 30 du présent Règlement légal, entraîne la saisie et la confiscation des marchandises.

En outre, si les marchandises prohibées à l'entrée ou à la sortie n'ont pas été déclarées ou régulièrement présentées au Bureau des Douanes, ou si les dites marchandises ont été dissimulées parmi d'autres marchandises ou cachées de toute autre manière, les transporteurs ou déclarants encourront solidairement et sauf leur recours, les uns contre les autres, une amende égale à la valeur des marchandises, indépendamment de la saisie et de la confiscation des marchandises prohibées, ainsi que de celles qui auront servi à les dissimuler.

En cas d'importation ou d'exportation par des routes n'aboutissant pas à un Bureau des Douanes, l'amende sera du double de la valeur de la marchandise, et les moyens de transports, navires, bateaux, bêtes de somme ou voitures, ainsi que les autres marchandises importées ou exportées en même temps seront confisquées. De plus, les individus, auteurs ou complices de la fraude seront punis d'une année de prison.

Art. 33. Les moyens de transports, navires, bateaux, ou bêtes de somme qui ont servi à l'importation ou à l'exportation de marchandises prohibées, sont spécialement obligés et exécutables pour les amendes encourues en vertu de l'Article précédent, et à défaut de paiement des dites amendes au plus tard trente et un jours après la découverte de la fraude, ils peuvent être vendus jusqu'à concurrence de la somme due.

Art. 34. Les personnes à charge desquelles il peut être établi d'une manière quelconque qu'elles ont participé à l'importation ou à l'exportation de marchandises prohibées, soit en commandant, achetant ou vendant ces marchandises, soit de toute autre manière, sont passibles des mêmes peines que ceux qui ont directement violé la défense édictée par le présent Règlement légal.

La valeur des confiscations et le montant des amendes ainsi encourues peuvent être récupérées sur tous les biens, meubles et immeubles des coupables.

Toutefois, les poursuites à effectuer en vertu du présent Article doivent être notifiées officiellement aux délinquants au plus tard deux années après le jour de l'accomplissement de l'acte délictueux.

Art. 35. Les marchandises saisies ou confisquées en vertu des Articles 32, 33, et 34 du présent Règlement légal sont vendues au profit du Trésor Impérial, à l'exception—

1. Des couleurs d'aniline et des journaux, livres, imprimés et images contraires à la religion ou aux bonnes mœurs. Ces objets doivent toujours être brûlés ou détruits publiquement au plus tard le lendemain du jour de la saisie, en présence du chef de service des Douanes, du Gouverneur ou de son délégué, et des autres personnes qu'il aura été possible de réunir. Un procès-verbal de la destruction est rédigé séance tenante et cacheté par toutes les personnes présentes. Une copie de ce procès-verbal est remise à la personne à charge de laquelle la saisie a été opérée, et une autre envoyée immédiatement par le chef de service des Douanes à l'Administration des Douanes à Téhéran.

2. Des monnaies autres que celles en or ou en argent, des armes à feu et des

munitions pour armes à feu, lesquelles doivent être envoyées le plus tôt possible à Téhéran, à l'adresse de l'Administration Centrale des Douanes, pour être remises au Palais Impérial.

Art. 36. Tout fonctionnaire ou employé du Gouvernement qui sera convaincu d'avoir soit permis, soit toléré, soit favorisé, d'une manière quelconque, l'importation ou l'exportation de marchandises prohibées, sera puni d'un emprisonnement d'une année au plus, suivant la gravité de la faute ; de plus il sera passible sur ses biens, meubles et immeubles du paiement d'une somme égale au double du montant des amendes et confiscations prévues par les Articles précédents à charge des auteurs de fraudes de l'espèce.

Art. 37. Des récompenses en argent à prélever sur le montant des amendes et confiscations peuvent être accordées par l'Administration Centrale des Douanes aux fonctionnaires et employés qui ont découvert ou fait constater les contraventions au présent Règlement légal, ou également à toute personne qui a donné à l'Administration des renseignements en suite desquels une pareille contravention a été découverte.

Art. 38. Toutes les contraventions aux Articles 28, 29, et 30 du présent Règlement légal doivent être établies dans un acte authentique, dressé en double expédition et signé par au moins deux employés, et elles sont poursuivies à la diligence de l'Administration des Douanes, qui est qualifiée pour encaisser les amendes, le montant des confiscations et requérir les peines corporelles encourues. Une des copies du procès-verbal est remise au principal contrevenant, qui doit en signer ou cacheter un accusé de réception, et l'autre copie est envoyée le plus tôt possible à l'Administration Centrale des Douanes, laquelle est seule compétente pour accorder des réductions sur les pénalités, s'il existe des circonstances qui justifient des mesures de clémence.

Chapitre V.—*Des Importations.*

Dispositions d'Application générale.

Art. 39. Aucune importation ne peut être effectuée que par les endroits où sont établis des bureaux pour la perception des droits d'entrée et de sortie, conformément au tableau ci-annexé.

La suppression d'un bureau ou la création d'un nouveau bureau se feront par Arrêtés spéciaux, qui devront être portés à la connaissance des Légations intéressées.

Art. 40. L'importateur doit au bureau d'importation remettre au chef local de la Douane une déclaration écrite, en double expédition en Persan ou en Français, établie d'après le modèle annexé au présent Règlement légal, et contenant l'indication exacte des marchandises.

Cette déclaration mentionne—

1er. Le pays d'origine et le lieu d'expédition des marchandises, et si l'importation est faite par navire ou bateau, le nom, la nationalité et le lieu du départ de ce navire ou bateau, ainsi que le nom du capitaine ou patron.

2. Le nombre, l'espèce, les marques et les numéros des colis importés.

3. L'espèce des marchandises que ces colis renferment, ainsi que l'espèce des marchandises chargées en vrac, le poids ou la mesure des marchandises, leur valeur et la localité vers laquelle elles sont dirigées ;

4. Toute déclaration en douane doit être signée ou cachetée. Cependant si l'intéressé est illettré, la déclaration peut être faite pour lui par des tierces personnes, lesquelles, dans ce cas, doivent certifier l'authenticité du cachet ou signe apposé par lui.

Cependant, pour les petites quantités de marchandises la Douane peut admettre les déclarations verbales.

Chapitre VI.—*Importation par Mer.*

Art. 41. Les navires et embarcations venant de l'étranger doivent se rendre directement et avant d'accoster à aucun point du territoire de la Perse dans un port où, il est établi un bureau de Douane.

Art. 42. Les navires et embarcations doivent, dans les ports de la Perse, mouiller à l'endroit qui leur est désigné par le chef local de la Douane.

Art. 43. Immédiatement après l'arrivée du navire ou de l'embarcation et avant tout commencement de déchargement de marchandises le capitaine ou patron est tenu

de remettre au chef local de la Douane les déclarations en double, établies conformément à l'Article 40, de toutes les marchandises qu'il a à bord et en même temps une copie de son manifeste.

Si le navire renferme des marchandises en destination de différents ports, mention doit être faite dans les déclarations dont il vient d'être parlé, et le capitaine ou patron est tenu en outre de remettre, dans chacun des ports où il aborde, une déclaration séparée pour les marchandises destinées à y être déchargées.

Art. 44. Lorsque, par suite d'une circonstance de force majeure, le capitaine ou patron est obligé d'alléger le navire ou l'embarcation avant d'arriver au point où il est établi un bureau des Douanes, il note exactement sur la déclaration qu'il a préparée pour la Douane et sur les documents du bord les marchandises transbordées.

Art. 45. Au lieu d'être faites par le capitaine ou le patron, les déclarations peuvent être signées et déposées par le destinataire, le propriétaire ou le consignataire des marchandises.

Art. 46. Au vu des déclarations, le chef local de la Douane appose sur celles-ci l'autorisation de décharger le navire ou l'embarcation. Sauf ce qui est dit à l'Article 44, le déchargement ne peut commencer qu'après la délivrance de la dite autorisation ; il doit se faire en présence des agents chargés par le chef local de la Douane de procéder à la reconnaissance des marchandises et, le cas échéant, de surveiller leur emmagasinage.

Art. 47. La vérification des marchandises déclarées au premier bureau d'entrée et destinées à être déchargées dans un autre port où il existe également un bureau de Douane est différée jusqu'au lieu de destination moyennant une inspection sommaire de l'état du chargement et le plombage des écoutilles ou des colis chargés à découvert sur pont.

Toutefois, en cas de soupçon de fraude le chef local de la Douane a la faculté de faire procéder à une vérification complète du chargement.

Art. 48. A l'importation par mer, s'il est dûment établi que par suite de circonstances exceptionnelles de force majeure le capitaine ou patron n'est pas en possession des documents nécessaires pour formuler la déclaration définitive contenant toutes les indications prescrites par l'Article 40, il peut obtenir du chef local de la Douane l'autorisation de décharger, en tout ou en partie, la cargaison sous la surveillance des agents de l'Administration afin d'examiner les marchandises et de se mettre ainsi à même de les déclarer avec les détails requis.

Cette autorisation de déchargement est accordée sur une déclaration provisoire remise par l'intéressé, en double expédition, et énonçant, d'après les papiers du bord et autres documents dont dispose l'importateur, le nombre, l'espèce, les marques et numéros des colis, ainsi que, aussi approximativement que possible, l'espèce et la quantité des marchandises.

L'autorisation de déchargement indique le délai dans lequel les marchandises doivent être déclarées définitivement ; en attendant cette déclaration définitive, l'intéressé est tenu d'observer les mesures de précaution que le chef local de la Douane prescrit.

Quant aux marchandises qui sont destinées à un autre port de déchargement, ainsi qu'il est prévu à l'Article 43, 2e alinéa, leur transport jusqu'au lieu de destination s'effectue en vertu de l'une des expéditions de la déclaration provisoire visée à cet effet par le chef local de la Douane du premier bureau. Cette déclaration est représentée au chef local du lieu de destination, lequel y inscrit l'autorisation de déchargement, conformément à ce qui est dit ci-dessus.

Art. 49. Si, à l'entrée par mer, il existe à bord d'un navire des marchandises destinées à un port étranger, et qui ne doivent pas être débarquées sur le territoire de la Perse, le capitaine est tenu d'en faire la déclaration séparée, conformément à ce qui est dit à l'Article 43, 2e alinéa, et de se soumettre aux mesures de surveillance que le chef local croirait devoir prendre.

Art. 50. A l'appui des déclarations exigées par le présent chapitre, le capitaine ou le patron est tenu, s'il en est requis, de représenter au chef local de la Douane, ou à l'employé que celui-ci délègue spécialement à cet effet, les connaissements et les autres papiers de bord relatifs à la cargaison. Il doit mettre les dits agents à même de vérifier son chargement s'il le juge nécessaire, et leur procurer à cet effet toutes les facilités désirables.

Art. 51. Les marchandises déchargées doivent, dès leur sortie du navire ou de l'embarcation, être conduites directement dans les magasins ou enclos de la Douane ou dans un entrepôt particulier agréé et surveillé par la Douane, conformément au Chapitre XII.

Chapitre VII.—*Marchandises naufragées et sauvées.*

Art. 52. Si des marchandises provenant de navires naufragés ou péris, ou des marchandises jetées à la mer pour cause de détresse viennent à être sauvées ou repêchées soit sur les côtes de la Perse, soit dans les eaux territoriales, ceux qui ont procédé au sauvetage ou qui ont la surveillance sont tenus d'en donner connaissance, le plus tôt possible, aux employés des Douanes les plus voisins, lesquels sont chargés d'en prendre provisoirement possession au nom du Gouvernement et d'en avertir le Consul de la nation à laquelle on suppose qu'appartenait le navire naufragé.

Les marchandises sujettes à une prompte détérioration sont vendues immédiatement pour compte de qui il appartiendra.

Les Consuls ont la faculté de réclamer pendant six mois la restitution des objets recueillis ou le produit de leur vente, s'ils fournissent la preuve que ces objets appartiennent à un sujet du Gouvernement qu'ils représentent, et moyennant le paiement des droits de douane éventuellement dus, ainsi que les frais de sauvetage ou sous déduction éventuelle de ceux-ci. Les frais de sauvetage à payer éventuellement sont fixés de commun accord entre le Directeur local des Douanes et les intéressés et à l'intervention, si l'intéressé le demande, du Consul de l'État auquel celui-ci appartient.

Les marchandises autres que celles sujettes à prompte détérioration sont vendues après un délai de six mois.

Le produit de la vente, après prélèvement des droits de douane, dus d'après l'Article 7 et s'il y a lieu suivant la remarque du dit Article, est partagé entre le propriétaire de la marchandise et le sauveteur, d'après leur commun accord, mais à l'intervention obligatoire du Consul du pays dont le propriétaire de la marchandise est sujet.

Si, dans le délai de deux années, le produit de la vente n'a pas été réclamé par le propriétaire de la marchandise, ce produit est partagé entre le Trésor de l'État et le sauveteur.

Art. 53. Ne sont pas considérées comme marchandises naufragées, et seront traitées comme ayant été importées sans déclaration, celles qui auraient été transportées, avant l'arrivée des employés et sans leur connaissance, plus loin qu'aux endroits du rivage où elles sont à l'abri d'être endommagées ultérieurement par l'eau.

Art. 54. Lorsque des marchandises recueillies en mer sont amenées à terre au moyen d'allèges, les patrons de celles-ci sont soumis aux mêmes règles que les capitaines des navires de mer, sauf que la déclaration peut être verbale.

Art. 55. Aussi longtemps que des marchandises sauvées sont restées sous la surveillance des employés de la Douane, les intéressés ont la faculté de les réexporter en exemption de tous droits, pourvu qu'ils se soumettent aux dispositions prescrites par le chef local de la Douane pour assurer la réexportation dans le délai à fixer par lui.

Art. 56. Les marchandises naufragées à l'égard desquelles il n'est point usé de la faculté inscrite à l'Article précédent sont, sous le rapport des droits, assimilées aux marchandises importées, mais celles dont l'importation est prohibée ne peuvent être délivrées qu'à la condition d'être réexportées sous réserve des mesures applicables s'il est établi qu'il y a eu tentative d'abus.

Art. 57. Les débris, mats, voiles, ancres, cordages, et autres agrés sauvés de navires échoués sur les côtes, de même que les ancres et cordages repêchés en mer en vue des côtes, sont également exempts de tous droits, pourvu que le tout soit suffisamment prouvé. Il en est de même des apparaux ou outils des bâtiments nationaux naufragés à des côtes étrangères, lorsqu'ils sont réexpédiés en Perse dans les six mois qui suivent l'événement.

Chapitre VIII.—*Importation par Voie de Terre.*

Art. 58. Aucune marchandise ne peut être importée par voie de terre si ce n'est en suivant, à partir de la frontière, les chemins qui sont indiqués comme voies autorisées pour les importations.

Les transports doivent être dirigés directement par ces chemins vers le premier bureau des Douanes établi sur les voies à suivre, conformément au Tableau ci-annexé.

Art. 59. Immédiatement après l'arrivée des transports au premier bureau des Douanes, le muletier, tcharvadar, ou voiturier est tenu de déposer les marchandises dans l'enceinte du caravansérail de la Douane et de remettre au chef local de la Douane les déclarations prescrites par l'Article 40.

La déclaration peut être faite verbalement en ce qui concerne les marchandises importées isolément lorsque la quantité ne dépasse pas la charge d'une bête de somme.

Art. 60. Lorsqu'il ne se trouve à la frontière qu'un simple poste d'entrée et que le bureau est situé à l'intérieur du pays, la déclaration prescrite par l'Article 40 doit être formée en double expédition et remise au chef de poste à l'entrée.

L'une des expéditions est retenue par celui-ci, l'autre est annexée à un passavant-à-caution (" patch "), qui est remis au muletier, tcharvadar, ou voiturier, après vérification du nombre, des marques et numéros et de l'espèce des colis. Ceux-ci sont ensuite plombés par la Douane et confiés au conducteur sous engagement écrit de les remettre intacts, avec le passavant-à-caution, au bureau chargé de percevoir les droits.

Après l'arrivée des colis au bureau et reconnaissance de l'état intact des colis, et de leur plombage, le chef local en donne avis au chef du poste d'entrée.

Si celui-ci ne reçoit pas cet avis dans le délai prescrit, il en informe le chef du bureau susdit, qui poursuit à charge du muletier, tcharvadar, ou voiturier le recouvrement des droits et de l'amende dues.

Les bêtes de somme et les voitures et autres moyens de transports sont spécialement obligés et exécutables pour les contraventions, concernant les transports, commises par les muletiers, tcharvadars, voituriers, ou autres transporteurs.

Chapitre IX.—*Exportation par Mer.*

Art. 61. Aucune marchandise, quelle que soit sa nature ou sa provenance, ne peut être embarquée en destination d'un pays étranger sans avoir été déclarée et vérifiée conformément aux Articles 62, 63, et 64, ci-après.

L'embarquement peut avoir lieu non seulement dans une localité où existe un bureau de Douane, mais aussi en tout autre lieu avec autorisation spéciale et sous la surveillance d'un employé des Douanes.

Art. 62. Avant l'embarquement, l'exportateur doit remettre au chef de la Douane une déclaration d'après un modèle fourni par l'Administration, indiquant le nombre et l'espèce des colis, leurs marques et numéros, l'espèce, le poids et la valeur des marchandises, le nom et le pavillon du navire qui doit effectuer l'exportation, ainsi que le pays de destination.

L'espèce des marchandises passibles de droits de sortie doit être déclarée d'après les dénominations employées dans le Tarif.

Pour les autres marchandises, l'exportateur doit employer les dénominations le plus généralement usitées dans le commerce et fournir au besoin à ce sujet les explications qui lui seraient demandées par le chef de la Douane.

Art. 63. Au vu de la déclaration le chef local délivre un permis d'exportation. Ce permis d'exportation n'autorise l'embarquement sur le navire exportateur qu'après la vérification de l'espèce et de la quantité des marchandises et le paiement des droits de sortie, ainsi que des amendes encourues en cas de contravention.

A moins d'une autorisation expresse du chef local, aucun embarquement ne peut avoir lieu si ce n'est en présence des agents chargés de la vérification.

Art. 64. Le capitaine ou patron de tout navire de commerce ou embarcation prenant un chargement dans un port Persan, ou se trouvant dans un port ou une rade de Perse, est tenu, avant de lever l'ancre, d'obtenir le permis de départ, excepté si le mauvais temps ou d'autres circonstances de force majeure forçaient le navire à lever immédiatement l'ancre.

Le patron ou le capitaine doit permettre aux agents de la Douane de visiter la cargaison s'ils le trouvent nécessaire et leur procurer à cet effet toutes les facilités possibles.

Chapitre X.—*Exportation par Voie de Terre.*

Art. 65. Toute marchandise peut être exportée par voie de terre en passant par un bureau de Douane, ou moyennant une autorisation spéciale et sous la surveillance

d'un agent des Douanes en passant par une localité où il n'y a pas de bureau de Douane.

Art. 66. Dès que les marchandises sont arrivées au bureau, le muletier, tcharvadar, ou voiturier remet au chef local une déclaration en double expédition contenant les renseignements prescrits par l'Article 62, en ce qui concerne les exportations par mer.

Il est tenu également, s'il en est requis par les agents de l'Administration, de remettre les lettres de voiture ou barnamehs relatifs aux marchandises transportées.

Art. 67. Le chef local retient l'une des déclarations et annexe l'autre à un permis d'exportation.

Après vérification des marchandises et perception des droits, s'il y a lieu, et plombage des colis, le chef local remet le permis d'exportation au muletier, tcharvadar, ou voiturier et le transport est dirigé directement vers la frontière par les chemins autorisés.

Art. 68. Le muletier, tcharvadar, ou voiturier est tenu de remettre le permis d'exportation aux employés du poste-frontière, et si ces employés reconnaissent la conformité des colis, ainsi que l'état intact des plombs, ils en font mention sur le document, qui doit être renvoyé dans le délai prescrit au bureau qui l'a délivré.

En cas de non-conformité des colis et des plombs, les employés constatent le fait dans la forme établie.

Chapitre XI.—*Magasins de Douanes.*

Art. 69. Il sera établi à tous les bureaux d'entrée, par les soins de l'Administration Centrale des Douanes, un ou plusieurs enclos, hangars, ou magasins destinés à recevoir les marchandises importées en attendant leur déclaration définitive par les destinataires ou autres intéressés.

Les magasins doivent être dûment clôturés pour présenter la sécurité voulue, et être assez vastes pour recevoir les quantités de marchandises sujettes à l'emmagasinage, habituellement importées.

Art. 70. L'introduction des marchandises dans le magasin d'importation a lieu en vertu d'une expédition de la déclaration prescrite par l'Article 40 et d'un passavant-à-caution, s'il y a lieu.

Art. 71. Les marchandises ne sont acceptées dans les locaux de la Douane qu'après une vérification superficielle permettant de reconnaître l'espèce des marchandises.

Après avoir procédé à cette vérification, et après avoir constaté, en présence de l'intéressé ou de son délégué, la conformité du nombre et de l'espèce des colis, de leurs marques et numéros, avec les indications de la déclaration de chargement, les employés les inscrivent dans un registre spécialement destiné à cet effet, en ayant soin de mentionner les traces d'avaries ou de violation des emballages reconnues au moment de l'entrée dans les magasins.

Art. 72. Les colis doivent être placés dans le magasin par les soins et aux frais des intéressés suivant les indications des agents de l'Administration, qui sont tenus de faire grouper autant que possible les colis d'un même propriétaire et provenant d'une même importation, afin de faciliter, le cas échéant, les recensements.

Art. 73. Les colis emmagasinés ne peuvent être ouverts avant la déclaration définitive des marchandises, soit pour l'importation dans le pays, soit pour l'entrepôt, soit pour la réexportation.

Il est fait exception toutefois pour les colis renfermant des marchandises au sujet desquelles l'intéressé ne possède pas les indications voulues pour faire sa déclaration détaillée ou qu'il désire changer d'emballage, trier, assortir, ou sécher, mais ces opérations ne peuvent avoir lieu qu'à la condition d'en demander préalablement l'autorisation au chef local de la Douane, qui désigne un ou plusieurs employés pour les surveiller.

Les marchandises dangereuses, insalubres, ou dont le voisinage peut nuire à d'autres, ne sont pas admises dans les magasins et doivent être déclarées pour l'importation dans le pays immédiatement après leur déchargement au bureau d'entrée, à moins qu'elles ne soient destinées à un entrepôt particulier.

Les marchandises encombrantes sont également exclues des magasins, mais elles peuvent être déposées soit sous des hangars ou des bâches, soit à l'air libre dans les cours, s'il en existe, ou sur des terrains spécialement désignés à cet effet par le chef local de la Douane. Il pourra être agi de même à l'égard des marchandises sujettes à des droits d'entrée peu élevés, et s'il y a lieu, dans des cas exceptionnels, pour certaines marchandises considérées comme dangereuses.

Art. 74. Les marchandises peuvent séjourner dans les magasins d'importation pendant quatre-vingt-dix jours au plus.

Celles qui, à l'expiration de ce terme, n'ont pas été déclarées définitivement soit pour l'importation dans le pays ou la réexportation, soit pour l'entrepôt, sont prises en dépôt spécial par le directeur local des Douanes, qui les y conserve pendant une année, après quoi, si elles n'ont pas été réclamées, elles sont vendues aux enchères publiques. Le produit net de la vente, après déduction des droits et des frais, est versé au Trésor de l'Etat.

Ce produit peut être réclamé pendant trois ans par celui qui prouve y avoir droit ; passé ce délai il est définitivement acquis à l'État.

Chapitre XII.—*Entrepôts.*

Art. 75. Dans les localités pourvues d'un bureau de Douane, et où cela sera jugé nécessaire dans l'intérêt du commerce, il sera établi des entrepôts de deux espèces :

1°. Pour l'usage public, c'est-à-dire, pour l'entreposage des marchandises appartenant à différentes personnes.

2. Pour l'usage particulier, c'est-à-dire, pour l'entreposage des marchandises du propriétaire de ce magasin.

Dans ces entrepôts les importateurs peuvent déposer les marchandises importées, avec faculté de les déclarer ultérieurement pour l'importation dans le pays ou pour la réexportation.

Les marchandises déposées dans les entrepôts publics appartenant à l'Administration des Douanes sont soumises à une taxe de magasinage ne dépassant pas celle déterminée par l'Article 7.

Art. 76. La durée du dépôt est fixée à un an. A l'expiration de ce terme les marchandises qui n'ont pas reçu une destination définitive sont prises en dépôt spécial par le chef local des Douanes, qui les conserve pendant une année, après quoi elles sont vendues aux enchères publiques et le produit net de la vente, après déduction des droits et des frais, est versé au Trésor Impérial.

Ce produit peut être réclamé pendant trois ans par celui qui prouve y avoir droit ; passé ce délai il est définitivement acquis à l'État.

Art. 77. Sont exclues de l'entrepôt public les marchandises promptement inflammables, dangereuses, insalubres, ou dont le voisinage peut nuire à d'autres ; il en est de même des marchandises exemptes de droits d'entrée et de celles qui sont avariées ou sujettes à une détérioration rapide.

Art. 78. Pour pouvoir placer dans l'entrepôt les marchandises arrivées dans un bureau de Douane, l'intéressé doit souscrire une déclaration spéciale contenant toutes les indications prescrites par l'Article 40, et au vu de laquelle la Douane délivre le document nécessaire.

Art. 79. Les marchandises déposées dans l'entrepôt public y sont amenées, arrimées et classées par les entrepositaires selon les indications que leur donnent les agents de l'Administration des Douanes. Ceux-ci tiennent un registre, dans lequel les marchandises sont inscrites au fur et à mesure de leur entrée et avec tous les détails nécessaires pour pouvoir les identifier. Il est spécialement fait mention des traces de violation visibles sur les colis, ainsi que des avaries constatées au moment de l'entrée dans le magasin, et qui ne seraient pas de nature à les faire exclure de l'entrepôt.

Art. 80. Tout importateur peut, dans les localités où il existe un bureau de Douane, obtenir l'autorisation de créer un entrepôt particulier pour le dépôt de ses marchandises, à la condition que le local fourni par lui présente toutes les garanties nécessaires contre les soustractions, qu'il y soit aménagé un local convenable spécialement réservé pour la vérification des marchandises à la sortie de l'entrepôt, qu'il soit situé à proximité du lieu de déchargement des marchandises et qu'avant de recevoir aucune marchandise, il soit agréé par le chef local de la Douane.

L'entrepôt particulier doit être fermé par deux serrures, dont l'une est posée aux frais du propriétaire par l'Administration, qui a le droit de la changer quand elle le juge à propos.

La clef de cette dernière serrure reste aux mains du chef local, de manière qu'aucune opération ne puisse se faire dans l'entrepôt sans l'intervention des agents de l'Administration.

Art. 81. Le négociant qui possède un entrepôt particulier tient, d'après un modèle arrêté par l'Administration Centrale des Douanes, un registre des marchandises entreposées.

Avant d'être mis en usage le registre doit être coté et paraphé par le chef local de la Douane.

Les agents de l'Administration ont en tout temps le droit de faire le recensement des marchandises qui se trouvent dans l'entrepôt et d'en vérifier la concordance avec les écritures du dit registre, comme aussi vérifier la concordance de ces écritures avec les documents délivrés pour les emmagasinages et pour les enlèvements de marchandises.

Les droits doivent être immédiatement acquittés sur les marchandises dont le manquant est constaté, sans préjudice des pénalités encourues.

Art. 82. Aucune marchandise ne peut être enlevée d'un entrepôt public ou particulier sans que l'intéressé ait, au préalable, remis au chef local une déclaration détaillée, établie conformément à l'Article 40 pour l'importation dans le pays ou pour la réexportation.

Au vu de la déclaration le chef local délivre un permis soit pour l'importation dans le pays, soit pour la réexportation; ce permis autorise l'enlèvement de la marchandise de l'entrepôt et indique le temps fixé pour l'enlèvement.

L'enlèvement doit se faire en présence des agents de l'Administration, et il est procédé à tous égards comme si les marchandises sortant de l'entrepôt arrivaient directement de l'étranger.

Art. 83. Les marchandises doivent, dans les entrepôts publics et particuliers, être munies d'étiquettes et être disposées de manière que l'on puisse facilement en faire le recensement et reconnaître en vertu de quels documents elles y sont entrées.

Art. 84. Les marchandises déposées dans les entrepôts publics et particuliers peuvent, si l'entrepositaire en fait la demande par écrit, être changées d'emballage, triées, assorties, ou séchées en vertu d'une autorisation préalable du chef local de la Douane, qui désigne un ou plusieurs employés pour surveiller les opérations. Les nouveaux colis doivent être dûment reportés dans les écritures tout comme s'ils entraient en entrepôt et les étiquettes apposées sur les marchandises doivent être modifiées en conséquence, suivant les instructions du chef local.

Art. 85. Les magasins servant d'entrepôt ne peuvent renfermer que des marchandises placées sous le régime de l'entreposage. Les marchandises trouvées dans un entrepôt particulier, sans qu'un document d'entrée explique leur présence, sont inscrites d'office par les agents de l'Administration au registre des marchandises entreposées.

Art. 86. Les entrepositaires sont tenus de veiller à la bonne conservation des marchandises et de leur donner les soins indiqués éventuellement par le chef local de la Douane, lequel peut, néanmoins, s'il le juge nécessaire, y procéder d'office aux frais de la marchandise.

Art. 87. Le chef local de la Douane peut, par une autorisation écrite formulée à la demande écrite de l'entrepositaire, permettre la levée d'échantillons de marchandises entreposées.

Chapitre XIII.—*Responsabilité de la Douane pour les Marchandises déposées dans ses Locaux ou dans les Entrepôts particuliers.*

Art. 88. Si un colis confié à la garde de la Douane venait à s'égarer, le Trésor en remboursérait la valeur au propriétaire.

Art. 89. Les frais occasionnés au Trésor pour le remboursement susvisé seront à la charge des employés et surveillants de l'entrepôt préposés à la garde du magasin de la Douane où la perte a été constatée. Ces agents sont personnellement responsables devant le Trésor, et leur responsabilité est garantie par leurs biens.

Art. 90. Le Trésor n'est pas responsable du déchet naturel ou de la corruption d'une marchandise si le fait n'est pas imputable à l'Administration de la Douane, pas plus que des risques relativement à des marchandises qui auraient été incendiées pendant leur séjour dans les entrepôts de la Douane. Les propriétaires des marchandises ont toujours le droit de faire assurer eux-mêmes leurs marchandises contre le risque d'incendie.

Art. 91. Le Trésor n'est pas responsable de la disparition, du déchet ou de l'avarie des marchandises se trouvant dans les entrepôts particuliers (voir Article 81, *in fine*).

Art. 92. La vérification des marchandises a lieu en vertu d'une déclaration spéciale pour chaque partie de marchandises signée par le propriétaire des marchandises ou par son délégué.

Cette déclaration doit être présentée à la Douane au plus tard dans un délai de quatorze jours à partir de la date de la remise des documents de chargement.

La déclaration en Douane doit énoncer—

(*a.*) La provenance et la destination des marchandises, ainsi que pour les marchandises importées, la date et le numéro de la déclaration sous le couvert de laquelle elles sont arrivées au bureau.

(*b.*) Le nombre, le genre d'emballage, les marques et les numéros et le poids brut des colis.

(*c.*) L'espèce des marchandises d'après les classifications adoptées dans le Tarif officiel des Douanes.

(*d.*) Le poids net des marchandises, leur valeur, leur nombre ou quantité, les mesures, s'il y a lieu, et leur volume.

(*e.*) Le nom et la résidence du destinataire.

Art. 93. En règle générale, tout colis doit être vérifié intégralement.

Toutefois, lorsque les déclarants présentent soit les factures originales ou notes de fabricants ou de commerçants en gros, soit des notes spécificatives de l'espèce, du poids et de la valeur des marchandises contenues dans chaque colis, la Douane se borne à faire vider, suivant l'importance de l'expédition, un ou plusieurs colis qu'elle désigne spécialement à cet effet; mais, si l'espèce des marchandises, le poids ou la valeur qui résultent de cette vérification par épreuve, révèlent des différences supérieures à 5 pour cent des éléments de la déclaration, la Douane exige que tous les colis soient vidés.

Article 94. En ce qui concerne les marchandises imposées, au poids ou à la mesure, importées par grandes quantités et renfermées dans les colis de même poids ou dimensions, la vérification peut être limitée à dix colis sur cent, à désigner par les employés. Parmi ceux convenablement remplis d'après les quantités ainsi reconnues, on calcule proportionnellement le total du poids ou de la mesure des marchandises à soumettre aux droits.

Quant aux produits exempts des droits, les employés peuvent borner la vérification du nombre, du poids ou de la mesure des marchandises à une reconnaissance sommaire des quantités déclarées.

Art. 95. Le résultat de la vérification détaillée des marchandises est inscrit et certifié par les employés sur le permis d'importation ou d'exportation et sert à établir le calcul ou la liquidation des droits dus.

Art. 96. Lorsque la vérification est terminée et qu'aucune contravention n'a été constatée, le chef local perçoit les droits, en donne quittance aux intéressés et fait apposer sur les colis une étiquette valable pour la sortie des marchandises des magasins et le transport jusqu'à destination.

Si la vérification a fait reconnaître des irrégularités, il poursuit éventuellement le paiement des amendes édictées par le Chapitre XIV.

Chapitre XIV.—*Fraudes et Contraventions.*

Art. 97. L'importation ou l'exportation de marchandises par des voies non autorisées (Article 39), en évitant le bureau des Douanes, à l'insu des autorités Douanières:—

(*a.*) Des marchandises dont l'importation ou l'exportation est prohibée en vertu des dispositions de la Loi du 5 Ramazan, 1317, est punie conformément aux dispositions de la dite Loi, lesquelles sont reproduites au Chapitre IV du présent Règlement légal;

(*b.*) De marchandises passibles de droits de douane est punie de la confiscation de ces marchandises, ainsi que de la confiscation des moyens de transport en œuvre pour la fraude;

(*c.*) De marchandises exemptes de droits en vertu du Tarif est punie d'une amende d'un toman par khavar de marchandises. En outre, si les moyens de transport employés pour de pareils transports sont passibles de droits d'entrée ou de sortie, ils seront saisis et confisqués, à moins qu'il ne soit prouvé à la satisfaction de l'Administration que l'irrégularité n'est entachée d'aucune intention de fraude; dans ce cas, il sera payé une amende de 5 tomans par bateau, d'un toman par voiture, et de 2 krans par bête de somme, indépendamment du paiement d'entrée ou de sortie, s'il y a lieu.

Art. 98. Si, parmi des marchandises régulièrement introduites dans un bureau des Douanes, il s'en trouve qui ne sont pas mentionnées dans la déclaration du transporteur et qui n'ont pas été déclarées oralement ; ces marchandises non déclarées seront retenues jusqu'au payement d'une amende égale à 50 pour cent du montant des droits fixés par le Tarif.

Toutefois, si ces marchandises non déclarées ont été dissimulées dans des cachettes, telles que doubles fonds ou autres analogues, elles seront confisquées, de même que les marchandises contenues dans les mêmes colis et parmi lesquelles elles auront été cachées.

L'enlèvement de marchandises d'un bureau des Douanes, à l'insu des employés et sans que la déclaration en ait été faite, est puni des mêmes peines que l'importation en fraude par des voies non autorisées.

Art. 99. Si, par suite de la vérification de marchandises dans un bureau des Douanes, il est constaté un excédent supérieur à 10 pour cent de la quantité ou du poids mentionnés dans la déclaration, il sera perçu une amende égale au double du surplus des droits reconnus exigibles.

Pour toute marchandise déclarée sous une fausse dénomination dommageable pour le Trésor, c'est-à-dire, en déclarant, au lieu de l'espèce véritable, une autre espèce sujette à des droits moins élevés, il sera perçu une amende égale au triple des droits dont le Trésor aurait été lésé si la fraude n'avait pas été découverte.

Si, à l'égard des marchandises importées par mer ou par terre, il est constaté que le nombre de colis ne coïncide pas avec celui porté sur la déclaration du capitaine ou du transporteur, il sera perçu pour chaque colis manquant une amende de 10 tomans, à moins qu'il ne soit prouvé à la satisfaction de l'Administration des Douanes que les colis ont été par erreur retenus soit au port de chargement ou lieu d'expédition, soit déchargés abusivement à l'étranger, auquel cas l'amende ne sera que de 3 krans par colis manquant. Les colis trouvés en sus du nombre déclaré seront saisis et confisqués, à moins qu'il ne soit prouvé à la satisfaction de l'Administration des Douanes qu'il s'agit d'une omission involontaire exempte de toute intention de fraude, auquel cas l'amende ne sera que de 3 krans par colis.

En cas de manquant ou d'excédent de marchandises transportées en vrac, l'amende sera de 5 tomans pour 100 batmans, à moins qu'il ne soit produit une excuse admissible, auquel cas l'amende sera de 3 krans.

Pour toutes irrégularités excusables commises dans la déclaration des capitaines ou des transporteurs, telles que indication inexacte de marques, numéros, et du genre d'emballage des colis, de même que pour la remise des déclarations après l'expiration des délais fixés, il est perçu une amende d'un toman par manifeste ou déclaration.

Art. 100. Tout enlèvement illicite de plombs, cadenas, ou autres scellés douaniers apposés sur les bateaux ou sur les magasins contenant des marchandises sous régime de Douane est puni d'une amende de 2 tomans, payable par le capitaine du bateau ou par le propriétaire du magasin.

Art. 101. Pour chaque plomb perdu durant le transport de marchandises d'un bureau d'entrée ou d'un magasin d'entrée jusqu'au bureau ou jusqu'à l'entrepôt de destination, il est perçu une amende d'un kran par plomb manquant, à moins qu'il ne soit prouvé que la perte est accidentelle ou résulte d'un cas de force majeure. Cependant, s'il est reconnu un manquant des marchandises placées sous la garantie du plombage, l'amende sera de 2 tomans par plomb manquant, indépendamment des poursuites qu'il y a lieu d'exercer dans tous les cas pour le détournement des marchandises manquantes à l'égard desquelles il sera traité comme si elles avaient été importées frauduleusement.

Art. 102. Les marchandises servent de gage pour l'acquittement des amendes ; à défaut de paiement de celles-ci deux mois après le jour de leur exigibilité, il pourra en être vendu aux enchères publiques une quantité suffisante pour couvrir le montant des dites amendes.

Art. 103. Tous commerçants, Sociétés, ou Associations, capitaines de navire, ou autres personnes employant des agents ou ouvriers, seront responsables au même titre, des fraudes, tentatives de fraudes, ou contraventions commises pour ces derniers.

Art. 104. Le bureau des Douanes est responsable en proportion du dommage causé de toutes pertes et de tous dommages survenus aux marchandises durant leur séjour dans les magasins clôturés et dans les entrepôts publics de la Douane.

L'Administration des Douanes assume également vis-à-vis des propriétaires des marchandises la responsabilité des actions de ses employés et ouvriers.

Cependant, lorsque les marchandises auront été retenues indûment par les employés au delà du temps nécessaire pour assurer l'exécution des dispositions du

présent Règlement légal, l'indemnité à allouer de ce chef ne pourra pas dépasser 1 pour cent et par mois de la valeur des marchandises pour le temps durant lequel elles ont été retenues illégalement.

Art. 105. Les fraudes et contraventions prévues par le présent chapitre sont constatées par les agents de l'Administration au moyen de procès-verbaux donnant le narré succinct et exact de ce que l'on aura reconnu avec indication des personnes du lieu et du jour.

Le procès-verbal doit être rédigé sur-le-champ ou au plus tard le lendemain ; une expédition en est immédiatement remise au contrevenant, et si celui-ci est sujet étranger une autre copie doit être envoyée au Consul du pays dont ce dernier est ressortissant.

Art. 106. Toutes contraventions commises par des sujets étrangers en violation des règles établies par le présent Règlement pour l'importation, l'exportation, l'entrepôt et le transit, sont jugées en premier ressort par le Directeur de la Douane locale, à l'intervention du Consul du pays intéressé, ou de son délégué.

Il est toujours loisible à ce Consul ou à son délégué d'interjeter appel de la décision intervenue, et dans ce cas, le litige est porté devant l'Administration Centrale des Douanes à Téhéran, où il est jugé définitivement, à l'intervention du Ministre intéressé ou de son délégué.

L'appel du Consul ou de son délégué doit être notifié officiellement et par écrit au Directeur de la Douane locale au plus tard trois jours après qu'il aura reçu une copie du jugement.

Art. 107. L'Administration Centrale des Douanes peut, sur la proposition du Directeur des Douanes de la province, lever ou réduire les amendes édictées par le présent chapitre, s'il est reconnu que la contravention est le résultat d'une erreur ou s'il est jugé qu'il existe en faveur du contrevenant des circonstances atténuantes.

Elle peut, à cet effet, ordonner la restitution partielle ou totale des amendes éventuellement acquittées.

Durant six mois à partir du jour du paiement des droits de douane l'Administration aura l'obligation, si les intéressés en font la demande par écrit, de rembourser les sommes qui seraient reconnues avoir été payées en trop.

Art. 108. Les personnes à charge desquelles il peut être établi, d'une manière quelconque, qu'elles ont participé à l'importation ou à l'exportation de marchandises prohibées, soit en commandant, achetant ou vendant ces marchandises, soit en organisant leur transport, soit de toute autre manière, sont passibles des mêmes peines que ceux qui ont directement violé la défense édictée par le présent Règlement légal.

Toutefois, les poursuites à effectuer en vertu du présent Article doivent être notifiées officiellement aux délinquants au plus tard deux années après le jour de l'accomplissement de l'acte délictueux, et s'il s'agit de sujets étrangers la notification des poursuites devra leur être faite par l'intermédiaire de la Légation ou du Consulat dont ils ressortissent, auxquels la dite notification devra être remise au plus tard deux ans après l'accomplissement de l'acte incriminé.

Art. 109. Les marchandises saisies ou confisquées sont vendues au profit du Trésor de l'État.

Art. 110. Tout fonctionnaire ou employé du Gouvernement, qui sera convaincu d'avoir soit permis, soit toléré, soit favorisé, d'une manière quelconque, l'importation ou l'exportation de marchandises soumises à des droits de douane sera puni d'un emprisonnement d'une année au moins et de trois années au plus, suivant la gravité de la fraude ; de plus il sera passible sur ses biens, meubles et immeubles, du paiement d'une somme égale au double du montant des amendes et confiscations prévues par les Articles précédents à charge des auteurs de fraudes de l'espèce.

Art. 111. Des récompenses en argent à prélever sur le montant des amendes et confiscations peuvent être accordées par l'Administration Centrale des Douanes aux fonctionnaires et employés qui ont découvert ou fait constater des contraventions au présent Règlement légal, et également à toute personne qui a donné à l'Administration des renseignements en suite desquels une pareille contravention à été découverte.

Chapitre XV. — *Dispositions diverses.*

Art. 112. Les attelages faisant un service de transport entre l'étranger et les bureaux des Douanes Persanes sont exempts de droits de douane.

Cependant, si les mêmes attelages s'enfoncent plus avant dans le pays, le propriété-

taire est tenu de fournir caution soit en espèces, soit par garantie personnelle admise par la Douane, pour le montant des droits applicables aux voitures et fourgons; cette caution sera dégagée ou restituée si l'exportation de ces voitures ou fourgons a été dûment constatée par la Douane dans le délai de neuf mois à partir du jour de la quittance.

De même les chevaux ou autres bêtes de somme employés pour les transports allant à l'étranger pourront être exemptés provisoirement des droits de sortie moyennant une caution valable pour neuf mois.

Art. 113. Les opérations de déchargement, de chargement, la manipulation dans les magasins et entrepôts, ainsi que les importations par voie de terre sont autorisées chaque jour depuis le lever jusqu'au coucher du soleil, à l'exception des Vendredis et jours de fêtes, à moins que, dans des circonstances particulières, le chef local ne donne par écrit une autorisation spéciale.

Art. 114. L'Administration a la faculté de placer des agents en surveillance à bord de tout navire chargé qui séjourne dans un port de l'Empire ou qui se rend d'un port à un autre avec des marchandises sujettes aux droits ou aux formalités prescrites par le présent Règlement légal ou par les Arrêtés pris pour en assurer l'exécution.

Le capitaine est tenu de recevoir ces agents, de leur accorder le transport gratuit et de leur fournir, à ses frais, le logement pendant qu'ils sont à bord, indépendamment d'une indemnité de 5 krans par jour pour frais de nourriture, si le navire est soumis à l'escorte durant son voyage dans les eaux Persanes.

Art. 115. Tous les frais quelconques de déchargement, de chargement, de déballage ou autres manutentions, occasionnés par les opérations de la Douane soit aux bureaux d'entrée ou de sortie, soit aux magasins de Douane ou aux entrepôts, sont à charge des intéressés. Ceux-ci sont tenus de fournir les ouvriers, portefaix et hommes de peine dont l'intervention est nécessaire, sauf dans les bureaux où la Douane assume l'organisation du service de manutention aux frais des propriétaires des marchandises.

Art. 116. Les employés des Douanes ont le droit de requérir la production des documents justifiant le paiement des droits sur toutes les marchandises en cours de transport, en venant du bureau où les droits doivent avoir été acquittés jusque dans le lieu habité vers l'intérieur du pays.

Si ces documents ne sont pas produits et si les marchandises ne portent pas les étiquettes qui doivent y avoir été apposées en vertu de l'Article 92 du présent Règlement légal, le transport est retenu jusqu'à production des preuves exigées. A défaut de faire cette preuve, au plus tard dans le délai de deux mois, les marchandises sont considérées comme ayant été importées en violation des prescriptions du présent Règlement légal et les contrevenants deviennent passibles des peines qu'il édicte.

Il en est de même des marchandises à l'égard desquelles on pourra établir, d'une manière quelconque, qu'elles ont été soustraites au paiement des droits. Les agents de la Douane pourront, dans ce but, en cas de soupçon grave, procéder à des investigations dans les magasins des négociants. Toutefois, s'il s'agit de négociants étranger, la visite ne pourra avoir lieu qu'avec l'assistance du Consul ou de son délégué.

Art. 117. Les employés des Douanes doivent se contenter des revenus qui leur sont accordés par l'Administration Centrale.

Ils ne peuvent rien recevoir au delà de ce qui leur est légalement alloué, nonobstant les offres qui leur seraient librement ou volontairement faites à cet égard, ni sous quelque prétexte que ce soit.

Ceux qui contreviennent à cette disposition seront destitués indépendamment des autres peines qui pourront leur être appliquées et des mesures administratives que les circonstances pourront rendre nécessaires.

Art. 118. Les employés de l'Administration des Douanes doivent se conduire avec égards et célérité envers tous ceux avec lesquels ils ont des relations dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, et surtout envers les voyageurs et personnes qui viennent de l'étranger ils sont tenus de leur donner tous les renseignements dont ils pourraient avoir besoin, sans néanmoins donner à un tiers des communications quelconques concernant les affaires d'un particulier à un autre.

Art. 119. Toutes les autorités civiles et militaires, de même que les officiers de justice et de police, sont tenus de prêter, lorsqu'ils en sont requis, assistance et protection aux employés de l'Administration des Douanes dans toutes les affaires concernant l'exercice de leurs fonctions et l'exécution des lois y relatives. Ils sont responsables des dommages qu'ils auront occasionnés par leur négligence ou par un refus mal fondé d'assistance.

Art. 120. Quiconque se permettrait d'attaquer les employés, de se porter à des

violences ou à des voies de fait envers eux, de leur résister lorsqu'ils sont dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, ou quiconque se permettrait, à cause de cet exercice, de porter atteinte ou dommage à leurs propriétés sera poursuivi conformément aux lois et coutumes du pays.

Art. 121. Tout employé de l'Administration des Douanes qui, directement ou indirectement, a participé à un fait ou tentative de fraude, soit en aidant ou assistant les auteurs ou complices dans les faits qui l'ont préparé ou facilité ou dans ceux qui l'ont consommé, soit en se concertant avec les auteurs ou complices, soit en agréant des offres ou promesses, ou en recevant des dons ou présents, soit en laissant se consommer la fraude lorsqu'il pouvait l'empêcher, soit de toute autre manière, est puni d'un emprisonnement de deux à cinq ans, et, en outre, déclaré incapable à jamais d'exercer aucune fonction publique.

Art. 122. Le présent Règlement légal sera mis en vigueur à partir du 1er Septembre, 1904.

Inclosure 2 in No. 112.

TABLEAU dressé en exécution de l'Article V de la Déclaration Anglo-Persane du 9 Février, 1903, indiquant la Classification des Bureaux des Douanes et leurs Attributions, ainsi que les Points des Frontières de Terre et de Mer et les Chemins ouverts pour l'Importation et l'Exportation des Marchandises.

Le présent Tableau ne pourra être modifié que par des Arrêtés spéciaux du Ministère des Douanes, qui devront être dûment notifiés à la Légation d'Angleterre.

KHORASSAN.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
1	Meched	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de—	
			Badjguiran	La route de Badjguiran à Meched par Chamkal et Koutchan.
			Babadjig	La route de Babadjig à Meched par Mohammedabad (Derghez).
			Khakester	La route de Khakester à Meched par Kelat.
			Chaachaa	La route de Chaachaa à Meched par Amirabad et Cabatkhan.
			Sarakhs	La route de Sarakhs à Meched par Gumbazli et Mazdouran.
			Zurabad	La route de Zulfigar à Meched par Zurabad et Bagho-Bagou (Mazdouran).
			Torbet-Cheik-Djam	La route de Guirian (Afghan) à Meched par Dehne-do-Ab.
			Kharis	La route de Ghurian à Meched par Karis.
			Kerat	La route de Ghurian à Meched par Kerat et Karis.
			Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises. 3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	

			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de—	
			Badjguiran	La route de Meched à Badjguiran par Kutchan et Chamkal.
			Babadjig	La route de Meched à Babadjig par Mohammedabad (Derghez).
			Khakester	La route de Meched à Kakester par Kélat.
			Chaachaa	La route de Meched à Chaachaa par Tobatkhan et Amirabad.
			Sarakhs	La route de Meched à Sarakhs par Mazdouran et Gumbazli.
			Zurabad	La route de Meched à Zulfigar par Bagho-Bagou et Zurabad (Mazdouran).
			Torbet-Cheik-Djam	La route de Meched à Ghurian par Dehne-do-Ab.
			Karis	La route de Meched à Ghurian par Karis.
			Kerat	La route de Meched à Ghurian par Kerat et Karis.
2	.. ..	Babadjig	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Badjig à Meched par Mohammedabad. La route de Badjig à Koutchan par Mohammedabad.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Babadjig ou des localités situées entre Babadjig et Meched ; et entre Babadjig et Kutchan	La route de Badjig à Meched par Mohammedabad. La route de Badjig à Koutchan par Mohammedabad.
			3. Réexpédition sur les bureaux de Meched et de Kutchan, des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Babadjig à Meched par Mohammedabad. La route de Babadjig à Koutchan par Mohammedabad.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Babadjig ou des localités situées entre Babadjig et Meched et entre Kutchan et Babadjig	La route de Meched à Babadjig par Mohammedabad. La route de Koutchan à Babadjig par Mohammedabad.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Nasirabad et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Meched à Babadjig par Mohammedabad. La route de Koutchan à Babadjig par Mohammedabad.
3	.. ..	Khakester ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Khakester à Meched par Kélat.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Khakester ou des localités situées entre Khakester et Meched.	
			3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Meched des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis, et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	

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3 (*suite*)	.. ..	Khakester ..	A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Khakester ou des localités situées entre Meched et Khakester	La route de Meched à Khakester par Kélat.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Meched et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est en-suite procédé	Idem.
4	.. ..	Chaachaa	A l'entrée—	
			1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Chaachaa à Meched par Amirabad et Tobatkhan.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Chaachaa ou des localités situées entre Chaachaa et Meched	Idem.
			3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Meched des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Chaachaa ou des localités situées entre Meched et Chaachaa	La route de Meched à Chaachaa par Tobatkhan et Amirabad
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Meched et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Idem.
5	.. ..	Sarakhs .. .	A l'entrée—	
			1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Sarakhs à Meched par Gumbazli et Mazdouran.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Sarakhs ou des localités situées entre Sarakhs et Meched	Idem.
			3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Meched des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis, et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Idem.

			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Sarakhs ou des localités situées entre Meched et Sarakhs	La route de Meched à Sarakhs par Mazdouran et Gumbazli.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Meched et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Idem.
6	Koutchan		A l'entrée—	
			1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de—	
			Babadjig	La route de Babadjig à Koutchan par Mohammedabad (Derghez)
			Keltéchinar	La route de Keltéchinar à Koutchan.
			Badjguiran	La route de Badjguiran à Meched par Chamkal et Koutchan.
			Barder	La route de Barder à Koutchan par Shirvan.
			Djeristan	La route de Djeristan à Koutchan par Shirvan.
			Kheirabad	La route de Kheirabad à Koutchan par Bodjnourd et Shirvan.
			Ghiffan	La route de Ghiffan à Koutchan par Bodjnourd et Shirvan.
			Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs.	
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises.	
			3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	
			A la sortie—	
			Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de—	
			Babadjig (direction de Meched, No. 2)	La route de Koutchan à Babadjig par Mohammedabad (Derghez).
			Keltechinar	La route de Koutchan à Keltéchinar.
			Badjguiran	La route de Meched à Badjguiran par Koutchan et Chamkal.
			Barder	La route de Koutchan à Barder par Shirvan.
			Djéristan	La route de Koutchan à Djéristan par Shirvan.
			Kheirabad	La route de Koutchan à Kheirabad par Shirvan et Bodjnourd.
			Ghiffan	La route de Koutchan à Ghiffan par Shirvan et Bodjnourd.
7	.. ..	Keltéchinar ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Keltéchinar à Koutchan.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Keltéchinar ou des localités situées entre Keltéchinar et Koutchan	Idem.

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7 (suite)	.. ..	Keltéchinar ..	A l'entrée— 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Koutchan des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Keltéchinar ou des localités situées entre Koutchan et Keltéchinar	La route de Koutchan à Keltéchinar.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Koutchan et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Idem.
8	.. ..	Badjguiran ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Badjguiran à Meched par Chamkal et Koutchan.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Badjguiran ou des localités situées entre Badjguiran et Koutchan	Idem.
			3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Koutchan ou de Meched des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Badjguiran ou des localités situées entre Koutchan et Badjguiran	La route de Meched à Badjguiran par Koutchan et Chamkal.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Koutchan et à Meched, et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Idem.
9	.. ..	Barder	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Barder à Koutchan par Shirvan.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Barder ou des localités situées entre Barder et Koutchan	Idem.

			3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Koutchan des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Barder ou des localités situées entre Koutchan et Barder	La route de Koutchan à Barder par Shirvan.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Koutchan et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Idem.
10	.. ..	Djéristan	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Djéristan à Koutchan par Shirvan.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Djéristan ou des localités situées entre Djéristan et Koutchan	Idem.
			3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Koutchan des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Djéristan ou des localités situées entre Koutchan et Djéristan	La route de Koutchan à Djéristan par Shirvan.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Koutchan et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Idem.
11	.. ..	Kheïrabad ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Kheïrabad à Koutchan par Bodjnourd Koutchan.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Kheïrabad ou des localités situées entre Kheïrabad et Koutchan	Idem.
			3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Koutchan des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kheïrabad ou des localités situées entre Koutchan et Kheïrabad	La route de Koutchan à Kheïrabad par Shirvan et Bodjnourd.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux		Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
	Principaux.	Accessoires.		
11 (*suite*)	.. ..	Kheirabad ..	A la sortie— 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Koutchan et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises, à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Koutchan à Kheirabad par Shirvan et Bodjnourd.
12	.. ..	Ghiffan	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Ghiffan ou des localités situées entre Ghiffan et Koutchan 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Koutchan des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Ghiffan à Koutchan par Bodjnourd et Shirvan. Idem. Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Ghiffan ou des localités situées entre Koutchan et Ghiffan 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Koutchan et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Koutchan à Ghiffan par Shirvan et Bodjnourd. Idem.
13	.. ..	Torbet-Haïdari ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de—	
			Zurabad	Les routes de Zurabad à Meched, et de Zurabad à Torbet-Haïdari.
			Torbet-Cheikh-Djam	Les routes de Ghurian à Meched par Torbet-Cheik-Djam, et de Zurabad à Torbet-Haïdari.
			Kharis	Les routes de Ghurian à Meched par Kharis, et de Ghurian à Torbet-Haïdari par Kharis.
			Kérat	La route de Ghurian à Torbet-Haïdari par Kérat.
			Charaks	La route de Sabzévar (Afghan) à Torbet-Haïdari par Charaks.
			Avaz	La route de Anar Dareh à Torbet-Haïdari par Avaz.
			Duruh	La route de Duruh à Torbet-Haïdari par Avaz et Charaks.
			Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs.	

			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises. 3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de—	
			Zurabad	Les routes de Meched à Zurabad et de Torbet-Haïdari à Zurabad.
			Torbet-Cheik-Djam	Les routes de Meched à Ghurian par Torbet-Cheik-Djam et de Torbet-Haïdari à Zurabad.
			Kharis	Les routes de Meched à Ghurian et de Kharis et de Torbet-Haïdari à Ghurian par Kharis.
			Kélat	La route de Torbet-Haïdari à Ghurian par Kélat.
			Charaks	La route de Torbet-Haïdari à Sabzévar (Afghan) par Charaks.
			Avaz	La route de Torbet-Haïdari à Anar Dareh par Avaz.
			Duruh	La route de Torbet-Haïdari à Duruh par Avaz et Charaks.
14	.. ..	Zurabad	A la entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs.	Les routes de Zurabad à Meched et de Zurabad à Torbet-Haïdari.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Zurabad ou des localités situées entre Zurabad et Meched ou Torbet-Haïdari	Idem.
			3. Réexpédition sur les bureaux de Meched ou de Torbet-Haïdari des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage de colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Zurabad ou des localités situées entre Meched et Zurabad ou entre Torbet-Haïdari et Zurabad	
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Meched ou Torbet-Haïdari, et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Les routes de Meched à Zurabad et de Torbet-Haïdari à Zurabad.
15	.. ..	Torbet-Cheik-Djam..	A la entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	Les routes de Ghurian à Meched par Torbet-Cheik-Djam, et de Zurabad à Torbet-Haïdari.

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15 (*suite*)	.. ..	Torbet-Cheik-Djam..	A l'entrée— 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Torbet-Cheik-Djam, et des localités situées entre Torbet-Cheik-Djam et Meched ou entre Torbet-Cheik-Djam et Torbet-Haïdari 3. Réexpédition sur les bureaux de Meched ou de Torbet-Haïdari des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Les routes de Ghurian à Meched par Torbet-Cheik-Djam, et de Zurabad à Torbet-Haidari. Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Torbet-Cheik-Djam, ou des localités situées entre Meched et Torbet-Cheik-Djam, ou entre Torbet-Haïdari et Torbet-Cheik-Djam 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Meched ou à Torbet-Haïdari, et reconnaissance des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Les routes de Meched à Ghurian par Torbet-Cheik-Djam et de Torbet-Haïdari à Zurabad. Idem.
16	.. ..	Kharis	A la entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Meched ou de Torbet-Haïdari, ou des localités situées entre Kharis et Meched ou entre Kharis et Torbet-Haïdari 3. Réexpédition sur les bureaux de Meched ou de Torbet-Haïdari des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Les routes de Ghurian à Meched par Kharis, et de Ghurian à Torbet-Haïdari par Kharis. Idem. Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kharis ou des localités situées entre Meched et Kharis, ou entre Torbet-Haïdari et Kharis 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Meched et à Torbet-Haïdari, et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Meched à Ghurian par Kharis, et celle de Torbet-Haïdari à Ghurian par Kharis. Idem.

17	.. ..	Kérat	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Kérat ou des localités situées entre Kérat et Meched ou entre Kérat et Torbet-Haïdari 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Nasirabad des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Ghurian à Meched par Kérat, et celle de Ghurian à Torbet-Haïdari par Kérat. Idem
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kérat ou des localités situées entre Meched et Kérat ou entre Torbet-Haïdari et Kérat 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Meched ou à Torbet-Haïdari, et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Meched à Ghurian par Kérat, et celle de Torbet-Haïdari à Ghurian par Kérat. Idem.
18	.. ..	Charaks	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Charaks ou des localités situées entre Charaks, Torbet-Haïdari, et Birdjund 3. Réexpédition sur les bureaux de Torbet-Haïdari et Birdjund des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Sabzévar (Afghan) à Torbet-Haïdari par Charaks. Idem. La route de Sabzévar (Afghan) à Birdjund par Charaks. La route de Sabzévar (Afghan) à Torbet-Haïdari par Charaks. La route de Sabzévar (Afghan) à Birdjund par Charaks.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Charaks ou des localités situées entre Torbet-Haïdari, Birdjund, et Charaks 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Torbet-Haïdari et Birdjund, et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Torbet-Haïdari à Sabzévar (Afghan) par Charaks. La route de Birdjund à Sabzévar par Charaks. Idem.
19	.. ..	Avaz	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination d'Avaz ou des localités situées entre Avaz Torbet-Haïdari, et Birdjund	La route de Anar Dareh (Afghan) à Torbet-Haïdari par Avaz Idem. La route de Sabzévar (Afghan) à Birdjund par Avaz.

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19 (*suite*)	.. ..	Avaz	A l'entrée— 3. Réexpédition sur les bureaux de Torbet-Haïdari et Birdjund des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Sabzévar (Afghan) à Birdjund par Avaz.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant d'Avaz ou des localités situées entre Torbet-Haïdari, Birdjund, et Avaz 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Torbet-Haïdari et Birdjund, et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Torbet-Haïdari à Anar Darch (Afghan) par Avaz. La route de Birdjund à Sabzévar (Afghan) par Avaz. Idem.
20	.. ..	Duruh	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Duruh ou des localités situées entre Duruh, Torbet-Haïdari, et Birdjund 3. Réexpédition sur les bureaux de Torbet-Haïdari et Birdjund des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Duruh à Torbet-Haïdari par Avaz et Charaks. Idem. La route de Kandahar à Birdjund par Duruh. Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Duruh ou des localités situées entre Torbet-Haïdari, Birdjund, et Duruh 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Torbet-Haïdari et Birdjund, et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Torbet-Haïdari à Duruh par Charaks et Avaz. La route de Birdjund à Kandahar par Duruh. Idem.
21	.. ..	Bendam	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Bendam et au delà	La route de Lash-Jurvain (Afghan) à Bendam par Ujgan Idem.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Bendam ou des localités situées au delà de Bendam	La route de Bendam à Lash-Jurvain (Afghan) par Ujgan
22	.. ..	Neh	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Neh et au delà	La route de Neh à Lash-Jurvain (Afghan) par Bordj-Gurab. Idem.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Neh ou des localités situées au delà de Neh	La route de Lash-Jurvain à Neh par Bordj-Gurab.
23	.. ..	Birjund	A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de— Duruh .. .. Avaz .. .. Charaks .. .. Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises.	La route de Duruh à Birdjund. La route d'Avaz à Birdjund. La route de Charaks à Birdjund.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de— Duruh .. .. Avaz .. .. Charaks	La route de Birdjund à Kandahar par Duruh. La route de Birdjund à Sabzévar et Hérat par Avaz. La route de Birdjund à Ghurian par Charaks.

KERMAN.

..	.. ..	Kerman	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des marchandises dédouanées dans les bureaux du Sud, du Béloutchistan, du Sistan, de Neh, de Bendam, de Birdjund, de Torbet-Haïdari et destinées pour l'intérieur. 2. Reconnaissance des plombs et des étiquettes apposés sur les colis ou marchandises.	

MER CASPIENNE.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
1	.. ..	Karganroud ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Karganroud ou des environs	Par mer.
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Astara ou Enzéli sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Karganroud	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Karganroud ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
2	.. ..	Hévir	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Hévir ou des environs	Idem
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Astara ou Enzéli sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Hévir	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Hévir ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
3	.. ..	Leissar	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Leissar ou des environs	Idem.
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Astara ou Enzéli sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Leissar	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Leissar ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
4	.. ..	Alalan	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination d'Alalan ou des environs	Idem.
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Astara ou Enzéli sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination d'Alalan	Idem.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
4 (*suite*)	.. ..	Alalan	A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant d'Alalan ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Par mer.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
5	.. ..	Chaffaroud ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Chaffaroud ou des environs	Idem.
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Astara ou Enzéli sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Chaffaroud	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Chaffaroud ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem
6	Enzéli	.. ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration en gros des marchandises à l'entrée par mer.. ..	Idem
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises importées par mer	Idem.
			3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	

			4. Transbordement des navires de mer sur les petits voiliers ou barques sous le contrôle de la Douane, des marchandises destinées à être déclarées pour la consommation dans les bureaux accessoires de Karganroud, Hévir, Leissar, Chaffaroud, Alalan, Hassan Kiadeh Lengueroud, Roudesser, et Chassovar, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants	Idem.
			5. Réception des marchandises indigènes arrivant d'un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées par mer, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis ou sur les écoutilles de petits voiliers qui amènent des marchandises d'exportation dédouanées dans un des bureaux secondaires et transbordement de ces marchandises des dits voiliers sur les navires de mer	Idem.
			3. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
7	.. ..	Hassan Kiadeh ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Hassan Kiadeh ou des environs	Idem.
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Enzéli sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Hassan Kiadeh	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Hassan Kiadeh ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.

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8	.. ..	Lengueroud ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Lengueroud ou des environs	Par mer.
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Enzéli sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Lengueroud	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Lengueroud ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
9	.. ..	Roudessar ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Roudessar ou des environs	Idem.
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Enzéli sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Roudessar	Idem
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Roudesser ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
10	.. ..	Chassovar ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Chassovar ou des environs	Idem
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Enzéli sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Chassovar	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Chassovar ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
11	.. ..	Mahmoudabad (Soulideh-Tzideh)	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Mahmoudabad ou des environs	Idem.
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Méchedissar sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Mahmoudabad	Idem

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11 (suite)	.. ..	Mahmoudabad (Zoulideh-Tzideh)	A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Mahmoudabad ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Par mer.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
12	.. ..	Farikanar ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Farikanar ou des environs	Idem
			2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Méchedissar sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Farikanar	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Farikanar ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
13	Méchedissar ..	.. ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration en gros des marchandises à l'entrée par mer.. ..	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées par mer	Idem.
			3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	
			4. Transbordement des navires de mer sur les petits voiliers ou barques sous le contrôle de la Douane des marchandises destinées à être déclarées pour la consommation dans les bureaux accessoires de Férahabad, Farikanar, et Mahmoudabad, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants	Idem.
			5. Réception de marchandises indigènes arrivant d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises exportées par mer, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis ou sur les écoutilles des petits voiliers qui amènent des marchandises d'exportation dédouanées dans un des bureaux secondaires et transbordement de ces marchandises des dits voiliers sur les navires de mer	Idem.
			3. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
14	.. ..	Férahabad ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Férahabad ou des environs	Idem.
			2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Méchedissar sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Férahabad	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Férahabad ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.

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14 (*suite*)	.. ..	Férahabad ..	A la sortie— 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Par mer.
15	Bender-Gèz ..	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration en gros des marchandises à l'entrée par mer . ..	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises importées par mer	Idem.
			3. Déclaration pour l'entrepôsage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale	
			4. Transbordement des navires de mer sur les petits voiliers ou barques sous le contrôle de la Douane, des marchandises destinées à être déclarées pour la consommation dans les bureaux accessoires de Gumuch Tépé et Khodja Nefez, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants	Idem.
			5. Réception des marchandises indigènes arrivant d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage	Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises exportées par mer, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis ou sur les écoutilles des petits voiliers qui amènent des marchandises d'exportation dédouanées dans un des bureaux secondaires et transbordement de ces marchandises des dits voiliers sur les navires de mer.	Idem.
			3. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Idem.
16	.. ..	Astarabad ..	A l'entrée— Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de Gombed Kabous et Barim, remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs	La route de Gombed-Kabous à Astarabad. La route de Tchikichlar à Astarabad par Barim.

			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées directement pour l'étranger	La route d'Astarabad à Gombed Kabous. La route d'Astarabad à Tchikichlar par Barim.
17	.. ..	Khodja Nefez ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Khodja Nefez ou des environs	Par mer.
			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Bender-Gèz sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Khodja Nefez	Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Khodja Nefez ou des environs embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage des marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.
18	.. ..	Gumuch-Tépé ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées en destination de Gumuch-Tépé ou des environs	Idem.
			2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau	Idem.
			3. Réception, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises transbordées à Bender-Gèz sur de petits voiliers ou barques en destination de Gumuch-Tépé	Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Gumuch-Tépé ou des environs, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux		Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
	Principaux.	Accessoires.		
18 (*suite*)	.. ..	Gumuch-Tépé ..	A la sortie— 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Par mer.
19	.. ..	Barim	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Barim ou des localités situées entre Barim et Astarabad 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau d'Astarabad des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Tchikichlar à Astarabad par Barim. Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Barim ou des localités situées entre Astarabad et Barim 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Astarabad et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Barim à Tchikichlar. La route d'Astarabad à Tchikichlar par Barim.
20	..	Tchatli	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Tchatli ou des localités situées entre Tchatli et Gombed Kabous 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Gombed Kabous des marchandises pour cette localité et ses environs et pour Astarabad, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route du Fort Tchat à Gombed Kabous par Tchatli Idem. Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Tchatli ou des localités situées entre Gombed Kabous et Tchatli	La route de Gombed Kabous au Fort Tchat par Tchatli
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Gombed Kabous et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Idem.
24	Gombed Kabous ..	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de Russie sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans le bureau de Tchatli, remise de passavants vérification des transports et des plombs 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises 3. Réexpédition sur Astarabad des marchandises pour cette localité et ses environs, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route du Fort Tchat à Gombed Kabous par Tchatli. La route de Gombed Kabous à Astarabad.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées directement pour l'étranger et provenant de Gombed Kabous ou ses environs	La route de Gombed Kabous à Tchatli. La route de Gombed Kabous à Astarabad.

AZERBAIDJAN.

1	Tauris		A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert des passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de— Djoulfa .. .. Khoy .. .. Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises. 3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	 La route de Djoulfa à Tauris par Mérend et Sofian. La route de Khoy à Tauris par Zanghir, Mérend, et Sofian.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de— Djoulfa .. .. Khoy .. .. Plombage des colis et délivrance des documents de sortie.	 La route de Tauris à Djoulfa par Sofian et Mérend. La route de Tauris à Khoy par Sofian, Mérend, et Zanghir.

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2	Astara	.. ..	A l'entrée—	
			1. Déclaration en gros des marchandises à l'entrée par mer ..	Par mer.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises importées par mer.	
			3. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises à l'entrée par terre	La route d'Astara (Russie) à Astara (Perse).
			4. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	
			5. Transbordement des navires de mer sur les petits voiliers, sous le contrôle de la Douane des marchandises destinées à être déclarées en consommation dans les bureaux secondaires de Hévir, Leissar, et Karganroud, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis, et délivrance des passavants	Par mer.
			6. Réception de marchandises indigènes arrivant d'un autre bureau de la Mer Caspienne sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées par mer, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie	Idem.
			2. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées par terre	La route d'Astara (Perse) à Astara (Russie).
			3. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis ou sur les écoutilles de petits voiliers qui amènent des marchandises d'exportation dédouanées dans un des bureaux secondaires de Hévir, Leissar, et Karganroud, et transbordement de ces marchandises des dits voiliers sur les navires de mer	Par mer.
			4. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port de la Mer Caspienne, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Idem.

3	.. ..	Kelvès	A l'entrée—	
			Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination des régions Archak, Pilatchay, et Vilkidj et des environs	Le chemin conduisant du bureau Russe de Kelvès au bureau Persan.
			A la sortie—	
			Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant des régions Archak, Pilatchay, et Vilkidj et des environs	Le chemin conduisant du bureau Persan de Kalvès au bureau Russe.
4	.. ..	Deiman	A l'entrée—	
			Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination des régions Archak et Oudjaroud	Le chemin conduisant du bureau Russe de Deiman au bureau Persan.
			A la sortie—	
			Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant des régions Archak et Oudjaroud	Le chemin conduisant du bureau Persan de Deiman au bureau Russe.
5	.. ..	Van	A l'entrée—	
			Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de la région Oudjaroud	Le chemin conduisant du bureau Russe d'Arouz au bureau Persan de Van.
			A la sortie—	
			Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de la région Oudjaroud	Le chemin conduisant du bureau Persan de Van au bureau Russe d'Arouz.
6	.. ..	Azadlou	A l'entrée—	
			Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de la région Oudjaroud	Le chemin conduisant du bureau Russe d'Assadkent au bureau Persan d'Azadlou.
			A la sortie—	
			Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de la région Oudjaroud	Le chemin conduisant du bureau Persan d'Azadlou au bureau Russe d'Assadkent.
7	.. ..	Bellasoar	A l'entrée—	
			Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Bellasoar ou des localités avoisinantes	Le chemin séparant le bureau Russe de Bellasoar du bureau Persan.
			A la sortie—	
			Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Bellasoar ou des localités avoisinantes	Idem.

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8	.. ..	Hassan Khan Lou ..	A l'entrée— Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de la région Hassan Khan Lou et des environs	Le chemin séparant le bureau Russe de Behram Tépéh du bureau Persan de Hassan Khan Lou.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de la région de Hassan Khan Lou et des environs	Le chemin séparant le bureau Persan de Hassan Khan Lou du bureau Russe de Behram Tépéh
9	.. ..	Oltan	A l'entrée— Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination d'Oltan ou des localités avoisinantes	Le chemin conduisant de l'Arax à Oltan.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant d'Oltan ou des localités avoisinantes	Le chemin conduisant d'Oltan à Arax.
10	.. ..	Ardébil	A l'entrée— Réception des marchandises dédouanées dans les bureaux d'Astara, Kelvès, Deiman, Van, Azadlou, Bellasoar, et Hassan Khan Lou, et destinées à Ardébil ou aux localités de l'intérieur, reconnaissance des plombs et étiquettes apposées sur les colis ou sur les marchandises	La route d'Astara à Ardébil le long de la frontière. La route de Kelvès à Ardébil. La route de Hassan Khan Lou à Ardébil par Ballasoar, Azadlou, Van, et Deiman.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et délivrance des passavants-à-caution pour l'exportation par les bureaux d'Astara, Kelvès, Deiman, Van, Azadlou, Bellasoar, et Hassan Khan Lou de moutons, de céréales et autres produits provenant d'Ardébil ou des environs et soumis aux droits de sortie	La route d'Ardébil à Astara le long de la frontière. La route d'Ardébil à Kelvès. La route d'Ardébil à Deiman, Van, Azadlou, Bellasoar, et Hassan Khan Lou.
11	.. ..	Gueder	A l'entrée— Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Gueder ou des localités avoisinantes	La route qui va de l'Arax à Gueder par Aslanduz.

			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Gueder ou des localités avoisinantes	La route qui va de Gueder à l'Arax par Aslanduz.
12	.. ..	Laridjan	A l'entrée— Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Laridjan ou des localités avoisinantes	Le gué de l'Arax en face de Laridjan.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Laridjan ou des localités avoisinantes	Idem.
13	.. ..	Khudaferin ..	A l'entrée— Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Khudaferin ou des localités avoisinantes	Le gué de l'Arax en face de Khudaferin.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Khudaferin ou des localités avoisinantes	Idem.
14	.. ..	Siarouth	A l'entrée— Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Siarouth ou des localités avoisinantes	Le gué de l'Arax en face de Siarouth
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Siarouth ou des localités avoisinantes	Idem.
1	.. ..	Djoulfa . ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Djoulfa ou des localités situées entre Djoulfa et Tauris. 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Tauris des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Le gué de l'Arax en face de Djoulfa. La route de Djoulfa à Tauris par Mérend et Sofian

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15 (*suite*)	.. ..	Djoulfa	A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Djoulfa ou des localités situées entre Djoulfa et Tauris 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Tauris et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Le gué de l'Arax en face de Djoulfa. La route de Tauris à Djoulfa par Sofian et Mérend.
16	. ..	Chahtakté ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Chahtakté ou des localités situées entre Chahtakté et Khoy. 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Khoy des marchandises pour Khoy et les environs, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Le gué de l'Arax en face de Chahtakté faisant suite à la route venant de Nakjivan. La route de Chahtakté à Khoy par Marakand.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Chahtakté ou des localités situées entre Khoy et Chahtakté 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés à Khoy et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Le gué de l'Arax situé en face de Chahtakté et ensuite la route allant à Nakjivan. La route de Khoy à Chahtakté par Marakent.
17	.. ..	Kember-Kendé ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Kember-Kendé ou des localités situées entre Kember-Kendé et Khoy. 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Khoy des marchandises pour Khoy et les environs, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Le gué de l'Araks en face de Kember-Kendé. La route de Kember-Kendé à Khoy.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kember-Kendé ou des localités situées entre Khoy et Kember-Kendé 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Khoy et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Le gué de l'Arak en face de Kember-Kendé. La route de Khoy à Kember-Kendé.
18	.. ..	Zergené	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises en destination de Zergené ou des localités situées entre Zergené et Khoy. 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Khoy des marchandises pour Khoy et les environs, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Le gué de l'Arax en face de Zergené. La route de Zergené à Khoy.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Zergené ou des localités situées entre Khoy et Zergené 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Khoy et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Le gué de l'Arax en face de Zergené. La route de Khoy à Zergené.
19	.. ..	Avadjek	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination d'Avadjek ou des localités situées entre Avadjek et Khoy. 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Khoy des marchandises pour Khoy ou les environs, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution 4. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Khoy des marchandises en destination de Tauris et des localités subséquentes, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance de passavants provisoires pour couvrir le transport jusqu'à Khoy	La route de Bayazid à Avadjek par Bikandi. La route d'Avadjek à Khoy par Zaïva et Kurd Kandi. Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant d'Avadjek ou des localités entre Khoy et Avadjek 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Khoy et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route d'Avadjek à Bayazid par Bikandi La route de Khoy à Avadjek par Kurd Kandi et Zaïva.

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19 (*suite*)	.. ..	Avadjek	A la sortie—	
			3. Remise des documents de sortie se rapportant à des marchandises dédouanées au bureau de Tauris et déjà reconnues à Khoy vérification des plombs et exportation des colis	Idem
20	.. ..	Khoy	A l'entrée—	
			1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution ou de passavants sommaires délivrés dans les bureaux de—	
			Chahtakté	La route de Chahtakté à Khoy par Marakand.
			Kember-Kendé	La route de Kember-Kendé à Khoy.
			Zergené	La route de Zergené à Khoy.
			Avadjek	La route d'Avadjek à Khoy par Zaïva et Kurd Kandi.
			Konechar	La route de Konechar à Khoy.
			Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs.	
			2. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de Van ..	La route de Van à Khoy par Khatur.
			3. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Khoy et des localités situées entre Khoy et Tauris.	
			4. Reexpédition sur le bureau de Tauris des marchandises pour toutes destinations arrivant sous le couvert de passavants sommaires délivrés à Avadjek.	
			Vérification des plombs et délivrance des passavants-à-caution pour couvrir le transport jusqu à Tauris	La route de Khoy à Tauris par Mérend et Sofian.
			5. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Tauris des marchandises arrivant de Van pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Khoy et des localités situées entre Tauris et Khoy destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de—	
			Chahtakté	La route de Khoy à Chahtakté par Marakand.
			Kember-Kendé	La route de Khoy à Kember-Kendé.
			Zergené	La route de Khoy à Zergené.
			Avadjek	La route de Khoy à Avadjek par Zaïva et Kurd Kandi.
			Konechar	La route de Khoy à Konechar.
			Plombage des colis et délivrance des documents de sortie	

			2. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Khoy ou des environs et destinées à être exportées en destination de Van	La route de Khoy à Van par Khatur.
			3. Communication des documents de sortie se rapportant à des marchandises dédouanées à Tauris et devant sortir de Perse par Avadjek, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis et reconnaissance des marchandises	La route de Tauris à Khoy par Sofian et Mérend.
			4. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Tauris et en destination de Van, reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Idem.
21	.. ..	Konechar	A l'entrée—	
			1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Van à Konechar.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Konechar ou des localités situées entre Konechar et Khoy	La route de Konechar à Khoy.
			3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Khoy des marchandises pour Khoy et les environs, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Idem.
			A la sortie—	
			1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Konechar ou des localites situées entre Khoy et Konechar	La route de Konechar à Van.
			2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Khoy et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Khoy à Konechar.
22	..	Ourmiah	A l'entrée—	
			1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant directement de l'étranger	La route de Van à Ourmiah par Kalarech. La route de Youlamark à Ourmiah par Pirkuli, Sakaran, et Surian. La route de Rézan à Ourmiah par Margansk.
			2. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans le bureau d'Ushnu	La route d'Ushnu à Ourmiah par Samarkand.
			Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs.	
			3. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises.	
			4. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	

No. d'Ordre	Bureaux		Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
	Principaux.	Accessoires.		
22 (*suite*)	.. ..	Ourmiah ..	A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées directement pour l'étranger 2. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par le bureau d'Ushnu Plombage des colis et délivrance des documents de sortie.	La route d'Ourmiah à Van par Kalarech. La route d'Ourmiah à Yulamark par Surian, Sakeran, et Pirkuli. La route d'Ourmiah à Rézan par Margansk. La route d'Ourmiah à Ushnu par Samarkand.
23	.. ..	Ushnu	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination d'Ushnu ou des localités situées entre Ushnu, Ourmiah et Savoutch-Boulacq. 3. Réexpédition sur les bureaux de— Ourmiah .. .. Savoutch-Boulacq .. .. Des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis, et délivrance des passavants-à-caution.	La route de Ravandouz (Turquie) à Ushnu. La route d'Ushnu à Ourmiah par Samarkand. La route d'Ushnu à Savoutch-Boulacq.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant d'Ushnu ou des localités situées entre Ourmiah, Savoutch-Boulacq, et Ushnu 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées dans les bureaux de— Ourmiah .. .. Savoutch-Boulacq .. .. et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé.	La route d'Ushnu à Ravandouz (Turquie). La route d'Ourmiah à Ushnu par Samarkand. La route de Savoutch-Boulacq à Ushnu.
24	.. ..	Savoutch-Boulacq ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de— Ushnu .. .. Ravandouz (Perse) .. .. Sardasht .. .. Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs.	La route d'Ushnu à Savoutch-Boulacq. La route de Ravandouz (Perse) à Savoutch-Boulacq. La route de Sardasht à Savoutch-Boulacq par Urmusan.

			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises	
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de— Ushnu .. .. Ravandouz (Perse) .. .. Sardasht .. .. Plombage des colis et délivrance des documents de sortie.	La route de Savoutch-Boulacq à Ushnu. La route de Savoutch-Boulacq à Ravandouz (Perse). La route de Savoutch-Boulacq à Sardasht par Urmuzan.
25	.. ..	Ravandouz (Perse) ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs . 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Ravandouz (Perse) et des localités situées entre Ravandouz (Perse) et Savoutch-Boulacq. 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Savoutch-Boulacq des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Ravandouz (Turquie) à Ravandouz (Perse). La route de Ravandouz (Perse) à Savoutch-Boulacq.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Ravandouz (Perse) ou des localités situées entre Savoutch-Boulacq et Ravandouz (Perse) 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées dans le bureau de Savoutch-Boulacq et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Ravandouz (Perse) à Ravandouz (Turquie). La route de Savoutch-Boulacq à Ravandouz (Perse).
26	.. ..	Sardasht	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Sardasht ou des localités situées entre Sardasht, Savoutch-Boulacq, et Banneh. 3. Réexpédition sur les bureaux de— Savoutch-Boulacq .. .. Banneh .. .. Sakkis des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution.	La route de Raniab à Sardasht par Alsho. La route de Sardasht à Savoutch-Boulacq par Urmuzan. La route de Sardasht à Banneh.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
26 (*suite*)	.. ..	Sardasht	A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Sardasht ou des localités situées entre Savoutch-Boulacq, Banneh, et Sardasht 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées dans les bureaux de— Savoutch-Boulacq .. .. Banneh .. .. et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé.	La route de Sardasht à Raniab par Alsho. La route de Savoutch-Boulacq à Sardasht par Urmuzan. La route de Banneh à Sardasht.

KURDISTAN.

1	Banneh	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant directement de l'étranger 2. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans le bureau de Sardasht, remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Sakkis des marchandises en destination de Sakkis ou des environs, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution 4. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées directement sur l'étranger 2. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par le bureau de Sardasht	La route de Soleimanieh à Banneh par Serambali. La route de Sardasht à Banneh. La route de Banneh à Sakkis. La route de Sardasht à Banneh. La route de Banneh à Soleimanieh par Painbé et Serambali. La route de Banneh à Sardasht.
2	.. ..	Sakkis	A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert des passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de Sardasht et Banneh, vérification des transports et des plombs 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur ces marchandises A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées directement sur l'étranger	La route de Sardasht à Sakkis par Banneh. La route de Sakkis à Banneh.
3	Sinneh	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert des passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de— Mérivan .. .. Djouanroud .. .. Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de— Mérivan .. .. Djouanroud	La route de Mérivan à Sinneh. La route de Djouanroud à Sinneh. La route de Sinneh à Mérivan. La route de Sinneh à Djouanroud.
4	.. ..	Mérivan	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Mérivan ou des localités situées entre Mérivan et Sinneh 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Sinneh des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Mérivan ou des localités situées entre Sinneh et Mérivan 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées dans le bureau de Sinneh et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Pendjwin à Mérivan par Belila. La route de Mérivan à Sinneh. Idem. La route de Mérivan à Pendjwin par Belila. La route de Sinneh à Mérivan.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
5	.. ..	Djouanroud ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Djouanroud ou des localités situées entre Djouanroud et Sinneh 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Sinneh des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Soleimanieh à Djouanroud par Halabja. La route de Djouanroud à Sinneh.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Djouanroud ou des localités situées entre Sinneh et Djouanroud 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées dans le bureau de Sinneh et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Djouanroud à Soleimanieh par Halabja. La route de Sinneh à Djouanroud.
6	Kirmanchah ..	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de— Kasr-Chirine .. .. Kelhors .. .. Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et plombage des colis 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises. 3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	La route de Kasr-Chirine à Kirmanchah par Zohab et Karind. La route de Kelhors à Kirmanchah par Ghilan à Harounabad.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de— Kasr-Chirine .. .. Kelhors .. .. Plombage des colis et délivrance des documents de sortie.	La route de Kirmanchah à Kasr-Chirine par Karind et Zohab La route de Kirmanchah à Kelhors par Harounabad et Ghilan

7	.. ..	Kala-Sabzi ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Kala-Sabzi ou de la région située entre Kala-Sabzi, Kasr-Chirine, et Ghilan 3. Réexpédition sous escorte jusqu'aux bureaux de Kasr-Chirine et de Ghilan des marchandises pour toutes destinations	La route de Bagdad à Kala-Sabzi par Kanegin Idem. La route de Kala-Sabzi à Kasr-Chirine. La route de Kala-Sabzi à Ghilan.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises provenant de Kala-Sabzi ou de la région située entre Kasr-Chirine, Ghilan, et Kala-Sabzi 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées dans les bureaux de Kasr-Chirine et Ghilan, reconnaissance sommaire de ces marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Kasr-Chirine à Bagdad par Kala-Sabzi par Kanegin. La route de Ghilan à Bagdad par Kala-Sabzi. La route de Kasr-Chirine à Bagdad par Kala-Sabzi et Kanegin. La route de Ghilan à Bagdad par Kala-Sabzi et Kanegin.
8	.. ..	Kasr-Chirine ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Kasr-Chirine ou des localités situées entre Kasr-Chirine et Kirmanchah 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Kirmanchah des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Bagdad à Kasr-Chirine par Kanegin et Kala-Sabzi. La route de Kasr-Chirine à Kirmanchah par Zohab et Karind.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kasr-Chirine ou des localités situées entre Kirmanchah et Kasr-Chirine 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées dans le bureau de Kirmanchah et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Kasr-Chirine à Bagdad pour Kala-Sabzi et Kanegin. La route de Kirmanchah à Kasr-Chirine par Karind et Zohab.
9	.. ..	Ghilan	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Kelhors ou des localités situées entre Ghilan et Kirmanchah 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Kirmanchah des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Bagdad à Ghilan. La route de Ghilan à Kirmanchah par Harounabad.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
9 (*suite*)	.. ..	Ghilan ..	A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kelhors ou des localités situées entre Kirmanchah et Ghilan 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées au bureau de Kirmanchah et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Ghilan à Bagdad. La route de Kirmanchah à Ghilan par Harounabad.
10	.. ..	Eivan	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Kelhors ou des localités situées entre Eivan et Kirmanchah 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Kirmanchah des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Mendali à Eivan. Idem. La route d'Eivan à Kirmanchah par Harounabad
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kelhors ou des localités situées entre Kirmanchah et Eivan 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées au bureau de Kirmanchah et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route d'Eivan à Mendali. La route de Kirmanchah à Eivan par Harounabad.
11	.. ..	Harounabad ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des marchandises dédouanées aux bureaux de Ghilan et Eivan et destinées à Harounabad et aux environs, reconnaissance des plombs et étiquettes apposés sur les colis ou marchandises 2. Réception des marchandises venant de l'étranger destinées pour Kirmanchah ou des localités subséquentes, et voyageant sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de Ghilan et Eivan contrôle des passavants-à-caution, reconnaissance des plombs apposés sur les colis et réexpédition des convois par Kirmanchah	La route d'Eivan à Harounabad. La route d'Eivan à Kirmanchah par Harounabad
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification et délivrance des passavants-à-caution pour l'exportation par les bureaux d'Eivan et Ghilan de marchandises provenant de Harounabad ou des environs	La route de Harounabad à Eivan.
12	.. ..	Hamadan ..	A l'entrée— Réception des marchandises dédouanées dans les bureaux du Khurdistan ou de Kirmanchah destinées pour l'intérieur, reconnaissance des plombs et étiquettes apposés sur les colis ou marchandises	La route de Kirmanchah à Hamadan.

ARABISTAN.

1	Mohammerah ..	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration en gros des marchandises à l'entrée par mer .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises à l'entrée par mer. 3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale. 4. Transbordement, sous le contrôle de la Douane, des navires de mer sur les bateaux à vapeur faisant le service entre Mohammerah et Ahwaz, des marchandises en destination d'Ahwaz et des localités subséquentes, dont le dédouanement définitif est retardé jusqu'à Ahwaz, plombage des colis transbordés ou des écoutilles des bateaux, et délivrance des passavants pour couvrir le transport jusqu'à Ahwaz. 5. Réception des marchandises indigènes arrivant d'un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises.	Le bras de l'estuaire du Chat-el-Aral dit Basrah situé entre l'Ile de l'Abandon et la côte Turque.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane, et remise des documents de sortie. 2. Remise des documents de sortie, reconnaissance des plombs apposés sur les colis ou sur les écoutilles des bateaux à vapeur faisant le service entre Ahwaz et Mohammerah, dernière visite et transbordement, sous le contrôle de la Douane, des marchandises dédouanées à Ahwaz, des bateaux à vapeur sur les navires de mer.	

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux.		Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
	Principaux.	Accessoires.		
1 (*suite*)	Mohammerah ..	.. ..	A la sortie— 3 Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs, et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	
2	.. ..	Ahwaz	A l'entrée— Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de Mohammerah, sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution, sur les bateaux à vapeur faisant le service entre Mohammerah et Ahwaz, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits sur toutes marchandises. A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par le bureau de Mohammerah, chargement sous le contrôle de la Douane, à bord des bateaux à vapeur faisant le service entre Ahwaz et Mohammerah, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles et remise des documents de sortie.	
3	.. ..	Dizfoul	A l'entrée— Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de Mohammerah, sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution, sur les bateaux à vapeur faisant le service entre Mohammerah et Dizfoul, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits sur toutes marchandises. A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par le bureau de Mohammerah, chargement, sous le contrôle de la Douane à bord des bateaux à vapeur faisant le service entre Dizfoul et Mohammerah, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux et remise des documents de sortie.	
4	.. ..	Shuster	A l'entrée— Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de Mohammerah sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution, sur le bateau à vapeur faisant le service entre Mohammerah et Shuster, vérification des plombs, déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits sur toutes marchandises. A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par le bureau de Mohammerah, chargement sous le contrôle de la Douane à bord des bateaux à vapeur faisant le service entre Shuster et Mohammerah, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux et remise des documents de sortie.	
5	.. ..	Busi	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Busi ou des environs 2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique, amenées de ce bureau sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Busi ou des environs exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs, et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre la côte Arabe et Busi). Par mer.
6	.. ..	Mashour	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Mashour ou des environs 2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique, sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Mashour ou des environs exportées directement par des voiliers.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre la côte Arabe et Mashour). Par mer.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
6 (*suite*)	.. ..	Mashour	A la sortie— 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs, et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	
7	.. ..	Hindien	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Hindien ou des environs 2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Hindien ou des environs exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs, et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre la côte Arabe et Hindien). Par mer.
8	.. ..	Godaré-Baloutak ..	A l'entrée— Réception des marchandises dédouanées dans les bureaux de l'Arabistan et destinées aux localités de l'intérieur, reconnaissance des plombs, et étiquettes apposées sur les colis ou sur les marchandises A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et délivrance des passavants-à-caution pour toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de l'Arabistan	La route de Nasseri à Ispahan par Godaré-Baloutak. La route d'Ispahan à Nasseri par Godaré-Baloutak.

SUD.

1	.. ..	Bender-Diloun ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers, en destination de Bender-Diloun ou des environs 2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Bender-Diloun ou des environs exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre la côte Arabe et Bender-Diloun).
2	.. ..	Bender-Rig ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Bender-Rig ou des environs 2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Bender-Rig ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre la côte Arabe et Bender Rig).
3	Bouchir	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration en gros des marchandises à l'entrée par mer.. .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises importées par mer. 3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	La voie de mer

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées
3 (*suite*)	Bouchir	.. ..	A l'entrée— 4. Transbordement, des navires de mer sur les petits voiliers, sous le contrôle de la Douane, des marchandises destinées à être déclarées pour la consommation dans les bureaux secondaires de la côte du Golfe Persique situés entre Lingah et Mohammerah, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants 5. Réception des marchandises indigènes arrivant d'un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, et remise des permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées par mer, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage des marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage 3. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis ou sur les écoutilles des petits voiliers qui amènent des marchandises d'exportation dédouanées dans un des bureaux secondaires du Golfe Persique situés entre Mohammerah et Lingah, et transbordement de ces marchandises des dits voiliers sur les navires de mer	La voie de mer. Idem. Idem. Idem.
4	.. ..	Kangun	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Kangun ou des environs 2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique, sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kangun ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre la côte Arabe et Kangun). Par mer.

			2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	
5	.. ..	Asselou	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination d'Asselou ou des environs. 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant d'Asselou ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre la côte Arabe et Asselou).
6	.. ..	Charak	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Charak ou des environs 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Charak ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Charak). Par mer.
7	.. ..	Ile de Gheis ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de l'Ile de Gheis ou des environs	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et l'Ile de Gheis).

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux.		Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
	Principaux.	Accessoires.		
7 (*suite*)	.. ..	Ile de Gheis ..	A l'entrée— 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de l'Ile de Gheis ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	
8	Lingah	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration en gros des marchandises à l'entrée par mer .. .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises importées par mer. 3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale. 4. Transbordement, des navires de mer sur les petits voiliers, sous le contrôle de la Douane, des marchandises destinées à être déclarées en consommation dans les bureaux secondaires de la côte du Golfe Persique situés entre Bender-Abbas et Bouchir, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants 5. Réception des marchandises indigènes arrivant d'un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, remise des permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées par mer, embarquement des marchandises sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage des marchandises en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage	Par mer. La voie de mer. Par mer. Idem.

			3. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis ou sur les écoutilles des petits voiliers qui amènent des marchandises d'exportation dédouanées dans un des bureaux secondaires du Golfe Persique situées entre Bouchir et Bender-Abbas et transbordement de ces marchandises des dits voiliers sur les navires de mer	Par mer.
9	.. ..	Khamir	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Khamir ou des environs 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Khamir ou des environs exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Khamir). Par mer.
10	.. ..	Loft .. .	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Loft ou des environs 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Loft ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Loft). Par mer.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
11	.. ..	Suzha	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers, en destination de Suzha ou des environs 2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Suzha ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage des marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Suzha). Par mer.
12	.. ..	Kishm	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par des voiliers, en destination de Kishm ou des environs 2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique, sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kishm ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Kishm). Par mer.
13	Bender-Abbas ..	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration en gros des marchandises à l'entrée par mer. . .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises importées par mer.	Par mer

			3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale 4. Transbordement, des navires de mer sur les petits voiliers, sous le contrôle de la Douane, des marchandises destinées à être déclarées pour la consommation dans les bureaux secondaires de la côte du Golfe Persique situés à l'est de Lingah, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants 5. Réception des marchandises indigènes arrivant d'un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, remise des permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises exportées par mer, embarquement des marchandises exportées sous le contrôle de la Douane et remise des documents de sortie. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage des marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage 3. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis ou sur les écoutilles des petits voiliers qui amènent des marchandises d'exportation dédouanées dans un des bureaux secondaires du Golfe Persique situés à l'est de Lingah et transbordement de ces marchandises des dits voiliers dans les navires de mer	Par mer. Idem. Idem. Idem.
14	.. ..	Minab	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Minab ou des environs. 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau. A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Minab ou des environs exportées directement par les voilier 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage des marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux.		Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
	Principaux.	Accessoires.		
15	.. ..	Tiab	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Tiab ou des environs 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Tiab ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage des marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis, ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs, et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Tiab). Par mer.
16	.. ..	Kushtak	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par des voiliers, en destination de Kushtak ou des environs 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique, sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kushtak ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs, et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Kushtak). Par mer.
17	.. ..	Kuh Mabarek ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par des voiliers en destination de Kuh-Mabarek ou des environs	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Kush Mabarek).

			2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique, sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kuh-Mabarek ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage des marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer
18	.. ..	Jask	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les steamers et voiliers en destination de Jask ou des environs 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Jask ou des environs, exportées directement par les steamers et les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les steamers et voiliers faisant le service directement entre l'étranger et Jask). Par mer.
19	.. ..	Tank	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Tank ou des environs 2. Réception des marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Tank ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Tank). Par mer.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux		Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
	Principaux.	Accessoires.		
19 (*suite*)	.. ..	Tank	A la sortie— 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	
20	.. ..	Puzm ..	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Puzm ou des environs 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Puzm ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Puzm). Par mer.
21	.. ..	Charbar	A l'entrée— 1. Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers et steamers en destination de Charbar ou des environs 2. Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Charbar ou des environs, exportées directement par les voiliers et les steamers. 2. Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs, et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les steamers et voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Charbar). Par mer.
22	.. ..	Gwetter	A l'entrée— 1 Déclaration, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises importées directement par les voiliers en destination de Gwetter ou des environs 2 Réception de marchandises indigènes ou des marchandises dédouanées dans un autre bureau du Golfe Persique sous le couvert d'un permis de cabotage, vérification des plombs et des marchandises amenées de ce bureau A la sortie— 1 Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Gwetter ou des environs, exportées directement par des voiliers. 2 Déclaration pour le cabotage de marchandises indigènes en destination d'un autre port du Golfe Persique, vérification, plombage des colis ou des écoutilles des bateaux transporteurs, et délivrance des permis de cabotage.	Par mer (par les voiliers faisant directement le service entre l'étranger et Gwetter). Par mer.
23	.. ..	Genaweh	A l'entrée— Mêmes attributions que pour les petits ports côtiers, tels que Charbar, Puzm, Tank, Jask, pour les marchandises en destination de Genaweh ou des environs A la sortie— Idem : pour les marchandises provenant de Genaweh ou des environs	Idem. Idem.
24	.. ..	Roudelleh ..	A l'entrée— Idem : pour les marchandises en destination de Roudellah ou des environs A la sortie— Idem : pour les marchandises provenant de Roudelleh ou des environs	Idem. Idem.
25	.. ..	Dayer	A l'entrée— Idem : pour les marchandises en destination de Dayer ou des environs A la sortie— Idem : pour les marchandises provenant de Dayer ou des environs ..	Idem. Idem.
26	.. ..	Tahéri	A l'entrée— Idem : pour les marchandises en destination de Tahéri ou des environs A la sortie— Idem : pour les marchandises provenant de Tahéri ou des environs .	Idem. Idem.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
27	.. ..	Schivou	A l'entrée— Mêmes attributions que pour les petits ports côtiers, tels que Charbar, Puzm, Tank, Jask, pour les marchandises en destination de Schivou ou des environs	Par mer.
			A la sortie— Idem : pour les marchandises provenant de Schivou ou des environs ..	Idem.
28	.. ..	Schirou	A l'entrée— Idem : pour les marchandises en destination de Schirou ou des environs	Idem.
			A la sortie— Idem : pour les marchandises provenant de Schirou ou des environs ..	Idem.
29	.. ..	Magam	A l'entrée— Idem : pour les marchandises en destination de Mogam ou des environs	Idem.
			A la sortie— Idem : pour les marchandises provenant de Mogam ou des environs ..	Idem.
30	.. ..	Mogou	A l'entrée— Idem : pour les marchandises en destination de Mogou ou des environs	Idem.
			A la sortie— Idem : pour les marchandises provenant de Mogou ou des environs ..	Idem.

SISTAN.

1	Nasirabad	.. ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception et emmagasinage des marchandises arrivant de l'étranger sous le couvert de passavants-à-caution délivrés dans les bureaux de—	
			Kuh Malek Siah	La route de Kuh Malek Siah à Nasirabad par Ormek et Guirdi Tcha.
			Vermal Sekaha	La route de Vermal à Nasirabad par Mohammadabad.
			Khodja Ahmed	La route de Khodja Ahmed à Nasirabad.
			Dei Dost Mohammad Khan	La route de Dei Dost Mohammad Khan à Nasirabad.
			Remise des passavants, vérification des transports et des plombs. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur toutes marchandises. 3. Déclaration pour l'entreposage sous le régime du Chapitre XIV de la Loi générale.	
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur toutes marchandises destinées à être exportées par les bureaux de—	
			Kuh Malek Siah	La route de Nasirabad à Kuh Malek Siah par Guirdi Tcha et Ormek.
			Vermal Sekaha	La route de Nasirabad à Vermal par Mohammadabad.
			Khodja Ahmed	La route de Nasirabad à Khodja Ahmed.
			Bei Dost Mohammad Khan	La route de Nasirabad à Dei Dost Mohammad Khan.
2	.. ..	Kuh Malek Siah ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Kuh Malek Siah à Nasirabad par Ormek et Guirdi Tcha.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Kuh Malek Siah ou des localités situées entre Kuh Malek Siah et Nasirabad	Idem.
			3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Nasirabad des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Kuh Malek Siah ou des localités situées entre Nasirabad et Kuh Malek Siah 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Nasirabad et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises, à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé.	La route de Nasirabad à Kuh Malek Siah par Guirdi Tcha et Ormek.
3	.. ..	Guirdi Tcha .	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs ..	La route de Quetta à Guirdi Tcha.
			2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Guirdi Tcha ou des localités situées entre Guirdi Tcha et Nasirabad	Idem.
			3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Nasirabad des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Guirdi Tcha à Nasirabad par Vermal.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux.		Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
	Principaux.	Accessoires.		
3 (*suite*)	.. ..	Guirdi Tcha ..	A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Guirdi Tcha ou des localités situées entre Nasirabad et Guirdi Tcha 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis des marchandises dédouanées à Nasirabad et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Nasirabad à Guirdi Tcha par Vermal. La route de Nasirabad à Quetta par Guirdi Tcha.
4	.. ..	Vermal Sekaha ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Vermal Sekaha ou des localités situées entre Vermal Sekaha et Nasirabad 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Nasirabad des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Vermal Sekaha à Nasirabad par Mohammadabad. Idem. Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Vermal Sekaha, ou des localités situées entre Nasirabad et Vermal Sekaha 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis des marchandises dédouanées à Nasirabad et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Nasirabad à Vermal Sekaha. Idem.
5	.. ..	Khodja Ahmed ..	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Khodja Ahmed ou des localités situées entre Khodja Ahmed et Nasirabad 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Nasirabad des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Khodja Ahmed à Nasirabad. Idem. Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Khodja Ahmed ou des localités situées entre Nasirabad et Khodja Ahmed	La route de Nasirabad à Khodja Ahmed.

			2 Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Nasirabad et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises, à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	Idem.
6	.. ..	Milek	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Milek ou des localités situées entre Milek et Nasirabad. 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Nasirabad des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution.	
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Milek ou des localités situées entre Nasirabad et Milek. 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Nasirabad et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé.	
7	.. ..	Deï Dost Mohammad Khan	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Deï Dost Mohammad Khan, ou des localités situées entre Deï Dost Mohammad Khan et Nasirabad 3. Réexpédition sur le bureau de Nasirabad des marchandises pour toutes destinations, vérification sommaire, plombage des colis et délivrance des passavants-à-caution	La route de Deï Dost Mohammad Khan à Nasirabad. Idem. Idem.
			A la sortie— 1. Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Deï Dost Mohammad Khan, ou des localités situées entre Nasirabad et Deï Dost Mohammad Khan 2. Remise des documents de sortie, vérification des plombs apposés sur les colis de marchandises dédouanées à Nasirabad, et reconnaissance sommaire des marchandises à l'exportation desquelles il est ensuite procédé	La route de Nasirabad à Deï Dost Mohammad Khan. Idem.

BÉLOUTCHISTAN.

No. d'Ordre.	Bureaux. Principaux.	Bureaux. Accessoires.	Attributions.	Voies autorisées.
1	.. ..	Mirjawa	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Mirjawa et au delà	La route de Saindak (Béloutchistan Anglais) à Mirjawa. Idem.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Mirjawa ou des localités situées au delà de Mirjawa	La route de Mirjawa à Saindak (Béloutchistan Anglais).
2	.. ..	Jalk	A l'entrée— 1. Réception des déclarations à souscrire par les transporteurs .. 2. Déclaration pour la consommation, vérification, et paiement des droits d'entrée sur les marchandises en destination de Jalk et au delà	La route de Ladgasht (Béloutchistan Anglais) à Jalk. Idem.
			A la sortie— Déclaration pour l'exportation, vérification, et paiement des droits de sortie sur les marchandises provenant de Jalk ou des localités situées au delà de Jalk	La route de Jalk à Ladgasht (Béloutchistan Anglais).
3	.. ..	Kulak	A l'entrée— Mêmes attributions que pour le bureau de Jalk	La route de Khoran à Kulak
			A la sortie— Mêmes attributions que pour le bureau de Jalk pour les marchandises provenant de Kulak	La route de Kulak à Khoran.
4	.. ..	Marti	A l'entrée— Mêmes attributions que pour le bureau de Jalk pour les marchandises en destination de Marti ou des environs	La route de Kidj à Marti.
			A la sortie— Mêmes attributions que pour le bureau de Jalk pour les marchandises provenant de Marti ou des environs	La route de Marti à Kidj.
5	.. ..	Trafshan . ..	A l'entrée— Mêmes attributions que pour le bureau de Jalk pour les marchandises en destination de Trafshan ou des environs	La route de Tumps à Trafshan.
			A la sortie— Idem : pour les marchandises provenant de Marti ou des environs ..	La route de Trafshan à Tumps.
6	.. ..	Cerbaz	A l'entrée— Mêmes attributions que pour le bureau de Jalk pour les marchandises en destination de Cerbaz	La route de Gwadar à Cerbaz par Hodur.
			A la sortie— Idem : pour les marchandises provenant de Cerbaz ou des environs ..	La route de Cerbaz à Gwadar par Hodur.

Inclosure 3 in No. 112.

Declaration respecting "Ports of the South."

LE Soussigné, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, avant de signer le Règlement Douanier, déclare qu'il le fait sous la réserve que les Douanes, dites "du Sud," dont il est fait mention dans le tableau annexé au Règlement, ne doivent pas être considérées par ce fait comme étant les seules visées par la note de son Excellence feu Haji Mohsin Khan Mouchir-ed-Dowleh au Chargé d'Affaires de Sa Majesté Britannique en date du 23 Octobre, 1897, concernant l'engagement pour un emprunt extérieur des Douanes du Sud, et que l'assurance contenue dans cette note ne doit point être envisagée comme étant amoindrie, limitée ou affaiblie en quoi que ce soit par la distinction établie en ce tableau pour des motifs d'ordre administratif entre les Douanes dites "d'Arabistan" et celles dites "du Sud."

Le Soussigné prie son Excellence M. le Ministre des Douanes de bien vouloir prendre acte de cette déclaration.

(Signé) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique, Gulahek, le 29 Août, 1904.

Le soussigné J. Naus, Ministre des Douanes et des Postes, prend acte de la déclaration qui précède.

(Signé) J. NAUS.

Téhéran, le 29 Août, 1904.

Inclosure 4 in No. 112.

Déclaration additionnelle au Règlement légal pour la Perception des Droits de Douane en Perse.

L'ADMINISTRATION des Douanes déclare reconnaître—

1. Que si l'intéressé le demande par écrit, ou si la demande en est faite de sa part par le Consul de la nation à laquelle il appartient, dix jours au plus tard après remise de la notification du procès-verbal de la contravention, la confiscation des moyens de transport prévue par l'Article 97 du Règlement légal pourra être remplacée par une amende ne dépassant pas 60*l.* à charge du capitaine du navire, du voiturier, ou conducteur, et des autres personnes ayant pris une part effective à la fraude.

De même, si l'intéressé le demande par écrit, ou si la demande en est faite de sa part par le Consul de la nation à laquelle il appartient, au plus tard cinq jours après le jour de la notification de la saisie, les marchandises confisquées dans le cas de l'Article 97 du Règlement légal seront restituées au délinquant ou à son représentant moyennant une amende à fixer par l'Administration des Douanes suivant les circonstances, mais dont le montant ne peut, en aucun cas, excéder la valeur de la marchandise.

Cette disposition n'est pas applicable—

(*a.*) Si, en cas de récidive, et pour des motifs spéciaux, l'Administration juge nécessaire de maintenir la confiscation afin de punir plus sévèrement les personnes qui se sont livrées à la fraude ;

(*b.*) S'il s'agit de marchandises susceptibles de détérioration rapide, à moins que la demande de reprise de la marchandise soit produite immédiatement après la notification de la saisie et qu'en même temps, le délinquant consigne la contrevaleur de la marchandise comme garantie pour l'amende.

2. Que si la Légation d'Angleterre en fait ultérieurement la demande, il sera établi à Kuh Malik Siah un bureau de premier rang.

Le Ministre des Douanes et des Postes,
(Signé) J. NAUS.

Téhéran, le 29 Août, 1904.

Inclosure 5 in No. 112.

Declaration by Sir A. Hardinge.

LE Soussigné, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, marque à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Douanes et Postes son accord relativement à la Déclaration additionnelle au Règlement Douanier pour la perception des droits de douane en Perse, faite en date d'aujourd'hui, par laquelle l'Administration des Douanes reconnaît que la confiscation des moyens de transport et marchandises prévue par l'Article 97 du Règlement pourra, dans certaines conditions, être remplacée par une amende, et s'engage à établir, sur la demande ultérieure de la Légation d'Angleterre, un bureau de première classe à Kuh-i-Malik-i-Siah.

(Signé) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Téhéran, le 29 Août, 1904.

Inclosure 6 in No. 112.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.

(No. 13. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, August* 20, 1904.

THE "Règlement Douanier" has been signed by the Russian Representative in this capital.

The only question which prevents my also signing the "Règlement" is, I understand, the point as to penalties and, on behalf of the Persian Government, I therefore request that your Lordship will send me at the earliest possible moment a reply to Mr. Lindsay's telegram of the 10th instant.

The following is a translation of the Persian text:—

"If the claimant or his Consul demands it within five days after the notification of the seizure of goods, the goods confiscated under Article No. XCVII shall be restored to him on payment of a fine to be fixed by the Customs Administration in accordance with the circumstances of the case, but which can in no case exceed the value of the goods.

"This provision would not apply (1) if in view of a repetition of the offence and for special reasons the Administration thinks it necessary to maintain the confiscation of the goods in order to punish more severely persons engaging in fraud, and (2) where any goods are susceptible of rapid deterioration, unless in the latter case a request for their restoration is made immediately after the notification of the seizure and the offender deposits their value as a security for the fine."

The ground for the first exception is that the Government wish to be in a position to inflict a specially severe punishment on habitual offenders, and for the second that the value of goods liable to speedy deterioration must be immediately declared.

I am of opinion that both these requirements are reasonable.

I have repeated this telegram to the Government of India, and I presume that as soon as I learn that that Government are satisfied on these points, I am authorized to sign the "Règlement Douanier."

Inclosure 7 in No. 112.

Sir A. Hardinge to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) *Gulahek, August* 20, 1904.

[Identic with telegram to Foreign Office, No. 12, Commercial, of the 20th August.]

Inclosure 8 in No. 112.

Government of India to Sir A. Hardinge.

Simla, August 25, 1904.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram of the 20th August: "Règlement Douanier."

We accept arrangement proposed in your telegram referred to above, but trust that in the cases of ignorant camelmen and traders the rules will be administered liberally.

Inclosure 9 in No. 112.

Declaration as to Signature of the "Règlement Douanier."

LES Soussignés—d'une part, M. Joseph Naus, Ministre des Douanes et des Postes de l'Empire de Perse; d'autre part, son Excellence Sir Arthur Hardinge, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Angleterre à Téhéran:

Vu le passage de l'Article 5 de la Déclaration Anglo-Persane du 9 Février, 1903, lequel stipule ce qui suit:—

"Un Règlement général, arrêté par l'Administration des Douanes, d'accord avec la Légation d'Angleterre à Téhéran, fixera avant la mise en vigueur de la présente Convention:

"(*a.*) La classification des bureaux de Douane et leurs attributions, les points des frontière de terre et de mer, et les chemins ouverts pour l'importation et l'exportation des marchandises, ainsi que l'organisation des magasins des bureaux de la Douane, et la fixation des termes indiquant l'inauguration des opérations de ces bureaux et magasins;

"(*b.*) Les formalités à observer par le commerce pour l'importation et l'exportation des marchandises;

"(*c.*) Le régime de l'entrepôt applicable aux marchandises Anglaises pendant douze mois à partir de leur arrivée dans un des bureaux ouverts à ce trafic;

"(*d.*) Les paiements à imposer au commerce pour le séjour des marchandises dans les magasins de la Douane ou pour tous autres services rendus par la Douane aux commerçants;

"(*e.*) La procédure douanière concernant la vérification des marchandises frappées de droits spécifiques et l'évaluation de celles imposées *ad valorem*, ainsi que les amendes applicables en cas de fraude ou de violation des formalités et règles établies":

Déclarent que le Règlement général ci-annexé, dûment signé et paraphé à chaque page, a été arrêté de commun accord entre l'Administration des Douanes et la Légation d'Angleterre en exécution de la disposition qui précède.

En foi de quoi la présente Déclaration a été dressée en double exemplaire et signée par nous.

(Signé) J. NAUS.
ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Téhéran, le 29 *Août*, 1904.

No. 113.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 23. Commercial.)

Gulahek, September 8, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, in continuation of my last preceding despatch, Commercial, that the new Customs post of Godari Balutak therein referred to, which M. Lavers had led Mr. Lindsay to believe, when they collated the list of Customs stations together, was a Turco-Persian frontier post, is really situated on the Ispahan-Ahwaz road, and is identical with the place usually known as the bridge of Godar. It was very careless of me to take M. Lavers' statements on trust without verifying them more minutely, more especially as Major Cox had reported that he heard the Customs meant to establish a post on the Bakhtiari road, a report which I considered improbable, in view of the fact that no provision was made for such a station in the

Table annexed to the "Règlement Douanier" as originally sent to us, and that the establishment of any new station has to be notified beforehand to the British and Russian Legations. I did not, however, at the moment when Mr. Lindsay made his report to me connect a "Godari Balutak," said to be on the Turco-Persian frontier, with the bridge of Godar on the Bakhtiari road, which the Bakhtiaris themselves have usually referred to in speaking to myself as "Pol-i-Godar," and it was not till afterwards that further inquiries made by me revealed the identity of the two places.

I acquit M. Lavers of any intentional misrepresentation, for he himself has never been further than Tehran and knows little about these localities, which are suggested by the local Directors of Customs; and he has since explained that the object of the post is to collect import and export duties on goods coming to and from Turkey which may have escaped payment on the undefined and little-known frontier further west, but which going to or coming from it are obliged to leave or enter the interior of Persia by a route striking the Ispahan-Ahwaz road near the Godar bridge. Nevertheless, as I consider it unadvisable for many reasons that a Customs post, even though it will not be able to interfere with British goods coming from Ahwaz, where they will already have paid duty, should be established on the Bakhtiari road, I addressed a note to M. Lavers requesting him to suppress the proposed bureau at Godari Balutak, or at any rate to put off establishing it till I could explain to M. Naus on his return my reasons for considering its creation undesirable. He has sent orders, in compliance with my request, that no steps are to be taken for the present towards its establishment, and it will, I hope, fall to the ground, more especially as it is, I think, certain to meet with strong opposition on the part of the Bakhtiari Chiefs. I am informing Mr. Preece of its proposed creation, and instructing him to tell the Chiefs verbally when he visits them in the autumn that I have objected to it, under the impression that it might possibly be unwelcome to them, and that they will do well, if this conjecture is correct, to represent at Tehran that its existence may give rise to troubles. Whether the objects of the Customs Department in establishing it are, are as they profess, purely fiscal, or are connected with a desire—in my opinion an unwise one, which may recoil upon themselves—to strengthen the authority of the Central Government in Bakhtiaristan, I cannot at present affirm with any certainty. It is, however, I think, advisable that it should be permanently shifted further to the north-west, and I shall endeavour to secure that this is done.

Neither the British nor the Russian Legations have, of course, a legal right, under the Conventions between Persia and Great Britain and Russia respectively, to veto the establishment of any particular Customs post; but it is, I think, improbable that the Persian Government would insist on maintaining one within the sphere of influence of either Government to which that Government strongly objected, and the absolute necessity for which could not be conclusively proved.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 114.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 24. Commercial.)

Gulahek, September 11, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Resident at Bushire, inclosing correspondence between His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Ahwaz and the representative of Messrs. Lynch Brothers, respecting the trade of Arabistan.

I do not forward Lieutenant Lorimer's actual Commercial Report, as Major Cox informs me that he has already sent a copy of it to the Board of Trade direct.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

Major Cox to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 127.)

Sir, *Bushire, August* 27, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a marginally noted communication which I have received from Lieutenant Lorimer, His Majesty's Vice-Consul for Arabistan (Ahwaz), on the trade of Khoremabad.

I am sending a copy of the communication to the Government of India and the Board of Trade. In the last instance, the trade report only.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. Z. COX.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

Vice-Consul Lorimer to Major Cox.

Ahwaz, July 27, 1904.

I FORWARD inclosed a copy of some notes I made on the trade of Khoremabad, which you may like to see.

I do not send them in officially, as I am not particularly concerned in trade matters. The copy forwarded was made by Mr. Wilson, and I have corrected it to bring it into correspondence with my own notes.

Mr. Wilson sent a copy to the London firm, and Mr. Blunsum (Bussorah Trading Company) also took a copy, which he sent to his Directors at home. It is therefore possible that further reference may be made to them in the future. My covering letter to Mr. Wilson was designed to discover whether Messrs. Lynch would be prepared to throw themselves with any heart into the commercial exploitation of Luristan. Mr. Wilson's answer, as you will see, is satisfactory, but it is of course no guarantee for the attitude which the head of the firm will adopt.

The last sentence of the notes have reference to a scheme for running kafilas through viâ Pusht-i-Kuh.

This schome is at present unfortunately hung up. I shall give you the facts concerning it in another letter.

(Signed) D. LORIMER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 114.

Vice-Consul Lorimer to Messrs. Lynch.

Sir, *Nasri, June* 14, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to place at your disposal some facts relating to the trade of Khoremabad and its neighbourhood, which I was able to ascertain by personal inquiries while recently visiting that place.

Should the route from Disful to Khoremabad be opened to traffic these few particulars may, I hope, serve as a guide pending more precise inquiries by a properly qualified person. Apart from the contingency of the opening of the Luristan road, the question whether a profitable trade in certain lines of merchandize might not be instituted between Nasri and Khoremabad by the longer but safe route of Ispahan is one which deserves your consideration.

Such trade would chiefly enter into competition with that at present existing between Bagdad and Khoremabad.

The carrying trade between Bussorah and Bagdad is, I believe, almost entirely in the hands of the Tigris and Euphrates Navigation Company. Whether they or any other European Company are directly interested in the import and export business I am not informed.

Again, how the Tigris and Euphrates Navigation Company stands related to the firm of Lynch Brothers I have no precise knowledge.

You will, however, know whether a transfer of traffic from one line to the other would be an inexpedient robbing of Peter to pay Paul.

Should it be true, as I have heard it stated, that the Tigris and Euphrates Navigation Company receives more cargo than, with its restricted number of vessels, it can deal with, there can be no place for scruples in trying to secure an extra outlet for this excessive pressure.

There is a strong belief here (Khoremabad) that the trade between Nasri and Khoremabad viâ Ispahan in certain lines of goods is a commercial possibility. As it is, a small quantity of tea as well as "Versho" (? German silver) finds its way here by Ispahan.

In particular, it is specified that chintz (chit) of all kinds could be profitably imported by this route, sugar (kand) also, if it could be landed at a price not exceeding 6 krans a Tabreez maund, would afford profit.

From information given further on you will be able to form an opinion as to whether these assertions are true, and, if so, whether other articles might not be added to the list.

The information of which I am in possession will be found grouped under the following headings :—

[Follows the Report.]

(Signed) D. LORIMER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 114.

Messrs. Lynch to Vice-Consul Lorimer.

Sir, *Nasri, June* 17, 1904.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated Nasri, the 14th June. Before proceeding with our reply, we must first express our best thanks to you for the trouble you have taken in amassing such a large amount of valuable information respecting the imports and exports, and, indeed, the trade and trading conditions generally of the town of Khoremabad. It is needless to say that such information is valuable to us, and you may be sure that we shall not be slow in pursuing the matter further into actual business details.

It would be somewhat premature for us at the present moment to give a defined opinion as to the value of the trade of Khoremabad, but without being unduly optimistic we should say, judging from your Report, that this town and district offers a large opening for British enterprise. That we shall be challenged from the north in our attentions to Khoremabad must not be doubted, for here British and Russian merchandize will meet on more equal terms than anywhere in Western Persia, and it seems to us that our only hope for predominance lies in pushing forward without delay the necessary arrangements for the safe transport of goods from the south.

These then are our first impressions only, and we will ask you to treat them as such. Later on, when we have gone into the matter more deeply, we shall render you a further report in detail.

The question you raise as to whether the proposed route through Luristan to the north and north-west of Persia will divert a good deal of the traffic from the Tigris to the Karun, and so constitute a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, has already received our consideration. It is quite true that much of the cargo carried by the Tigris and Euphrates Company's steamers would be deflected; yet, on the other hand, the rival line, the Sinia Company, would also lose, and the Tigris and Euphrates Company's steamer on the Karun would be doubly the gainer, whilst the Tigris and Euphrates Company's boats on the Tigris would only be relieved of the excess of cargo which up to the present it has been totally unable to cope with. With nothing further to add, we have, &c.

(For Lynch Brothers),

(Signed) P. A. WILSON.

No. 115.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 3rd October, relative to the recent violation of the Amiri frontier.

India Office, October 4, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Resident, Aden, to Government of Bombay.

Aden, October 3, 1904.

(Telegraphic.) P.

YOUR telegram of the 27th September. I have just received and am forwarding to you, the Report from Political Officer, Dthali, who states that Kaïmakam's action was taken under orders from Taiz. Some doubt apparently exists as to whether a portion of Mazorb-al-Khadar is situated in Amiri territory, but there is no doubt Merewether reports, that Turks did violate Amiri boundary when they seized the six men. Kaïmakam, in reply to protest made by Merewether, denies that any violation of Amiri territory took place. Both Merewether and Fitzmaurice advocate strong representations to Porte. I concur in their view.

(Repeated to Secretary of State, Constantinople, Foreign Secretary, Government of India, and Mr. FitzMaurice.)

No. 116.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 6.)

India Office, October 5, 1904.

Sir,

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge receipt of Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 1st October, transmitting the draft of a telegram which Lord Lansdowne proposes to send to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran, instructing him to make a representation to the Persian Government with reference to their reported intention to deprive the Hashmat-ul-Mulk and his sons of their hereditary Governorship of Seistan.

In reply, I am to say that Mr. Brodrick concurs in the terms of the draft telegram.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 117.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Grant Duff.

Foreign Office, October 6, 1904.

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

YOU should inform the Persian Government, with reference to your telegram No. 105 of the 29th ultimo, that His Majesty's Government, after all the efforts they have made on behalf of the interests of Persia in Seistan, and in view of their repeated representations on the subject of the Hashmat-ul-Mulk, have received with great surprise the reports which have reached them to the effect that the Hashmat-ul-Mulk will not be permitted to return to Seistan, and that the Governorship will not be given to either of his sons, but to some other official.

His Majesty's Government trust that these reports are without foundation, and that they may receive an assurance to that effect.

You should also address a further warning to the Persian Government to the effect that such a disturbance of the political *status quo* on the frontier, as would be involved in the removal of the Hashmat from his post, or the transfer of the Acting Governorship, now vested in his son, to another official, would not facilitate the realization of the desire expressed by the Shah for the early withdrawal of Major MacMahon and his force from Seistan.

No. 118.

Foreign Office to Sir L. Griffin.

Foreign Office, October 6, 1904.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, on the subject of Belgian influence in Persia.

I am to convey to you His Lordship's thanks for this communication, and to state that the question of the Karun irrigation is receiving the careful attention of His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 119.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 10.)

Constantinople, October 4, 1904.

(No. 773.)
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith an extract from a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hodeidah, reporting the principal events in the Yemen Vilayet between the months of April and August of this year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Extract from Report on the Administrative and Economic State of the Yemen Vilayet, April to August, 1904.

THE principal event of the past five months, as already reported, was the death of the Imam at his stronghold at Kuel-et-Udhar about the beginning of June, which will be the outcome of important political developments in the Yemen in the near future.

He has been succeeded by his son, Yahya-bin-Mahomed, under the title of Muttawakkal-bi-Allal.

The latter has, I believe, formally notified his accession to the Imamate to the Vali at Sana'a, as also his intention of continuing the hostilities commenced by his predecessor.

It is expected that a general rising will take place in all directions round about Sana'a shortly, and it is supposed that the Imam has already collected a strong force for the purpose of giving trouble to the Turks.

According to rumours current here a favourable opportunity will be sought after the departure of Abdulla Pasha from Sana'a, and this is even credited by prominent persons.

There seems to be no abatement of the famine that has been raging in this province very severely for the past twelve months.

Rain was badly needed in the Tehama till July, but there has been a certain amount since that might yet save the next dhurra crop.

The Ta'iz district has suffered greatly from the same causes, but the prospects have been brighter lately with the advent of the rain.

The towns of Yerim and Ibb, and other places in the Kada of Anis, have been devastated by the scourge of the prevailing drought, whole villages being wiped out in many parts.

A European merchant, who has resided at Sana'a for twenty years, estimates that there have been about 65,000 deaths in the above-mentioned places alone, but though these figures might be slightly exaggerated, they serve to represent the extent of the misery that exists.

Sana'a has had very little rain so far, and abounds with thousands of starving inhabitants.

The coffee crops of Harraz for this season have failed, but the long looked-for rain has at last made its appearance during the past fortnight, since when there has been a plentiful fall.

An Imperial Iradé has been promulgated, setting aside the Customs' receipts on grains and food-stuffs at Yemen ports for the next four months, to be applied to the relief of the starving thousands in the vilayet.

No taxation on its poor inhabitants has, however, been reduced, with the result that tens of thousands of their flocks and herds have been seized by the authorities at Sana'a, Menakha, and other places, in lieu of land taxes overdue.

With the rise in the price in India of dhurra, the staple food of the Yemen Arab, the cost of living has been increased in a corresponding degree.

In short, the outlook in Yemen, political and economic, is, at its best, very gloomy.

(Signed) G. A. RICHARDSON, *Vice-Consul.*

Sana'a, August 31, 1904.

No. 119*.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 777. Secret.)

Therapia, October 4, 1904.

My Lord,

I WAS received in farewell audience by the Sultan on the 23rd ultimo.

His Imperial Majesty opened the conversation by assuring me that he would give his formal consent to the Aden frontier delimitation next day, and that he would also instruct his Grand Vizier to see that the several current questions, which, I complained, had not been settled by the Porte, were satisfactorily terminated before I left. Among these questions were the importation of bunker coal free of duty by the Khedivial Mail Steam-ship Company and the two English Companies at Bussorah, several financial claims, and the extension of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

His Majesty then entered into a long explanation of his desire to adopt any advice I might give him in his own interest and in that of his Empire. He had charged his Minister for Foreign Affairs to find out from me the several measures which I considered to be necessary for the improvement of the general situation, and he understood from Tewfik Pasha that I was prepared to submit my views to him, and he hoped that I had not forgotten my promise.

I replied that the delay was due to my having been unwell, as His Majesty was aware, during the last ten days, and to the importance which I attached to not proposing any remedial measures which were not capable of easy execution in accordance with His Majesty's expressed desire to effect a direct and immediate improvement in the situation.

I spoke of the condition of the finances, the state of the Tribunals, and the necessity of extending the reorganization of the gendarmerie to other parts of the Empire. His Majesty expressed his readiness to consider these several questions, and again begged me to see Tewfik Pasha and to submit to him my views with regard to these reforms.

On the following day I read to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the inclosed Memorandum, which I had drawn up in as simple and concise a manner as I could, bearing in mind the manner in which the proposals would be likely to strike and act on His Majesty's mind, and after consultation with the Minister, who expressed his entire approval of the way the matters had been presented, I left the paper with him

in order that he should himself make a Turkish translation of it in accordance with His Majesty's wishes.

I have not up to the present received any reply or acknowledgment from the Sultan, but I understand from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that His Majesty remarked to him that the proposals I now made had been already taken into consideration by His Majesty himself and virtually approved. As to the time and mode of putting these reforms into execution, or as to the urgency of the need for them, in order to stave off a serious condition of affairs His Majesty has been silent.

I have never been hopeful of much result following the advice which the Sultan has, with some difficulty, extracted from me, but should the Sultan again broach the question of closer relations between England and Turkey, a subject to which he did not refer in our conversation, it could not be otherwise than advantageous to be able to state to His Majesty that the execution of the essential reforms, which I have ventured to lay before him, would seem to be a condition precedent to His Majesty's Government, seriously considering the larger and broader question of a political understanding.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 119*.

Memorandum left by Sir N. O'Conor with Tewfik Pasha.

(Secret.)

A COUNTRY'S prosperity and independence depend upon its internal administration, and a good administration depends upon the selection of capable and honest officials. Great Sovereigns select able Ministers. Under an autocratic system of government capable and honest officials are still more responsible: they are the eyes and ears of the Sovereign; they represent Parliament and public opinion; their personal responsibility and reasonable freedom of action is the main incentive to good conduct, and if you deprive them of either you produce chaos.

After several years' careful study of the internal situation of the Ottoman Empire I am forced to the conclusion that the administrative and financial disorganization is both a grave and an immediate danger to the Throne and Empire.

The essential conditions of internal progress are that *justice* shall rule supreme, that an intelligent fiscal system shall exist, that the *Administration shall be purged of abuses*, and *that the country's natural wealth and mineral riches shall be properly developed*.

Justice depends upon the honesty and intelligence of the Judges and other judicial officials. Honesty and integrity is coincident with an adequate and regular payment of salaries. A drastic inquiry into the condition of the Ottoman Tribunals is essential.

But the whole machinery of government depends upon the financial situation, and I confidently assert that the financial situation is deplorable and eminently unsatisfactory. The Treasury repudiates daily its legitimate debts; the Ministry of Finance is weekly besieged by hungry claimants of salaries, pensions, and arrears; scarcely 60 per cent. of the official salaries are paid, and to satisfy even this part loans are made right and left, heedless of economy, for sums even as small as £T. 10,000 or £T. 20,000, thus lowering the prestige of the Government and jeopardizing the livelihood of all classes of small officials. The pecuniary straits engendered by the partial payment of salaries, both in town and country, imposes corrupt practices upon the officials—leads to flagrant abuse of power, to the oppression of the weak. This breeds discontent among the civil population and mutiny among the troops (*vide* Beyrout, Aleppo, Damascus, Jeddah, Monastir, Medina, Konia, Perlepe, Uskub, Van, &c.). It is folly to disregard these symptoms or to spare any effort to remedy the danger.

The smallness of the revenues returned by the Department of Mines and Forests is a scandal. Turkey is naturally one of the richest countries in the world. Its potential wealth is great, but owing to absurd Mining Regulations it is buried in the bowels of the earth, and in this respect Turkey remains to-day as behindhand as Thibet.

I do not know the exact average revenue accruing to the State from the Mines and Forests, but, estimating it roughly at 500,000 liras, I have no hesitation in saying

that, under a capable, honest, and expert administration, it would be quadrupled in a very few years.

Purify the Judicial Tribunals, reorganize the Financial Administration, stop the corruption which, like a cankerous growth, is undermining the nation's vitality, develop the country's mineral resources, and I undertake to say that Turkey will advance by leaps and bounds towards economic prosperity and political and international importance.

It is not my idea to advocate any wholesale or complicated project of reforms, but I would most earnestly urge the adoption of a few practical and remedial measures as the only means of conjuring serious danger to the State and Empire.

The first and most important of these measures is the reorganization of the financial situation. Various Commissions have been appointed for this purpose without any tangible results and their futility is evident.

I suggest, therefore, the appointment of a Mixed Commission composed of three Ottoman and two foreign officials, constituted by Imperial Iradé and with full powers to inquire into the revenues and expenditure of the several State Departments. At the same time another Iradé should be issued stating that the recommendations of the Commission will be put into execution.

The second measure is the extension of the reorganization of the gendarmerie and police in the vilayets of Adrianople, Van, Bitlis, and Erzeroum. The reorganization should be based on the system adopted in Roumelia, and special revenues guaranteed for the purpose.

I attach the utmost importance to the Sultan taking the initiative in the introduction of these remedial measures. There is nothing that will create a more favourable impression, politically, in Europe, that will so materially contribute to the prestige and fame of His Imperial Majesty, that will promote the prosperity of the country, and that will be calculated to preserve the integrity of the Empire.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

September 22, 1904.

No. 120.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 779.) *Therapia, October* 5, 1904.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 138 of the 23rd September, I have caused an energetic protest to be made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs against the violation of the Amiri territory, reported in the Aden Resident's telegram of the 23rd September. I have asked that an immediate inquiry should be made into the facts, and I have given the Porte to understand that if, on the receipt of further particulars, it is clear that the Kaimakam of Kataba had, in spite of the protests of our officials, violated the frontier, he would have to be dismissed.

I begged that instructions should be sent to the local authorities to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, and to address themselves, should the occasion arise, to the Amir of Dthali himself or to the British officer stationed in his territory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 121.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Grant-Duff.

(No. 64.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1904.

(Telegraphic.) P.

HIS Majesty's Government have been expecting to hear that the Persian Government have complied with their first demands for the arrest of the Urumia murderers and their accomplices, and for the removal of the Mullah.

You should inform the Persian Government of this, and state that you have received instructions to inquire why they have not yet carried out the orders issued at the request of His Majesty's Government in the month of June last.

No. 122.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 8th September, relative to the grant of a French flag to a Persian subject.

India Office, October 10, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Sir, *Bushire, August* 20, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Residency Agent, Lingah, informs me that Haji Abdul Rahman-bin-Mahomed Kazim, acting as French Consular Agent, has obtained a French flag for his dhow.

As the man is a Persian subject, and as the dhow is used for purposes of private trade, I am doubtful whether it is entitled to fly the French flag, and I think the matter worth reporting for the information of Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. Z. COX.

No. 123.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 13.)

Sir, *India Office, October* 12, 1904.

WITH reference to Mr. Campbell's letter of the 22nd September, on the subject of quarantine arrangements in the Persian Gulf, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to request that you will inform Lord Lansdowne that the suggestions made by Sir A. Hardinge in the penultimate paragraph of his despatch No. 152 of the 16th August last have been referred to the Government of India for report.

In the meantime, I am to observe that the deputation of European rather than Indian or Eurasian medical officers to the Gulf Ports would probably have the effect of doubling the expense of the existing arrangements.

Mr. Brodrick assumes that if the Persian Government were to be relieved of this expense the cost would, in accordance with the usual practice, be divided between the Imperial and the Indian Exchequers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 124.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated 1st October, relative to the recent violation of the Amiri frontier.

India Office, October 12, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 1, 1904.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 26th ultimo, regarding the violation of Amiri frontier by Turks, instructions have been sent to Ambassador at Constantinople to the effect that he is to request Porte to communicate by telegraph to Turkish local authorities such orders as will insure that they will refrain from taking any action beyond the frontier themselves in all cases of this kind, and will confine themselves to addressing representation to Amir of Dthali, or, in case of necessity, to the British officer stationed at that place.

No. 125.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 4th October, relative to Consular guards in Persia.

India Office, October 12, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 4, 1904.

YOUR telegrams of the 6th August and the 3rd September last. I approve your proposal as to guards for Consulates in Persia.

No. 126.

Agreement between Great Britain and France, referring to Arbitration the Right of certain Muscat Dhows to fly the French Flag, &c. Signed at London, October 13, 1904.

WHEREAS the Government of His Britannic Majesty and that of the French Republic have thought it right, by the Declaration of the 10th March, 1862, "to engage reciprocally to respect the independence" of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat;

And whereas difficulties as to the scope of that Declaration have arisen in relation to the issue, by the French Republic, to certain subjects of His Highness the Sultan of Muscat of papers authorizing them to fly the French flag, and also as to the nature of the privileges and immunities claimed by subjects of His Highness who are owners or masters of dhows and in possession of such papers or are members of the crew of such dhows and their families, especially as to the manner in which such privileges and immunities affect the jurisdiction of His Highness the Sultan over his said subjects:

ATTENDU que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique et le Gouvernement Français ont jugé convenable par la Déclaration du 10 Mars, 1862, "de s'engager réciproquement à respecter l'indépendance" de Sa Hautesse le Sultan de Mascate;

Attendu que des difficultés se sont élevées sur la portée de cette Déclaration relativement à la délivrance, par la République Française, à certains sujets de Sa Hautesse le Sultan de Mascate de pièces les autorisant à arborer le pavillon Français, ainsi qu'au sujet de la nature des privilèges et immunités revendiqués par les sujets de Sa Hautesse, propriétaires ou commandants de boutres ("dhows") qui sont en possession de semblables pièces ou qui sont membres de l'équipage de ces boutres et leurs familles, particulièrement en ce qui concerne le mode suivant lequel ces privilèges et ces immunités affectent le droit de juridiction de Sa Hautesse le Sultan sur ses dits sujets:

The Undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, hereby agree that these questions shall be determined by reference to arbitration, in accordance with the provisions of Article I of the Convention concluded between the two countries on the 14th October last, and that the decision of The Hague Tribunal shall be final.

It is also hereby agreed as follows:—

Les Soussignés, dûment autorisés à cet effet par leurs Gouvernements respectifs, conviennent, par les présentes, que ces difficultés seront tranchées par voie d'arbitrage conformément à l'Article I de la Convention intervenue entre les deux pays, le 14 Octobre dernier, et que la décision du Tribunal de La Haye sera définitive.

Il est aussi convenu par les présentes de ce qui suit:—

ARTICLE I.

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall nominate one Arbitrator, and these two Arbitrators shall together choose an Umpire; if they cannot agree within one month from the date of their appointment, the choice of an Umpire shall be entrusted to His Majesty the King of Italy. The Arbitrators and the Umpire shall not be subjects or citizens of either of the High Contracting Parties, and shall be chosen from among the members of The Hague Tribunal.

ARTICLE I.

Chacune des Hautes Parties Contractantes nommera un Arbitre, et ces deux Arbitres ensemble choisiront un Sur-Arbitre; si, dans le délai d'un mois à partir de leur nomination, ils ne peuvent tomber d'accord, le choix d'un Sur-Arbitre sera confié à Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie. Les Arbitres et le Sur-Arbitre ne seront pas sujets ou citoyens de l'une ou l'autre des Hautes Parties Contractantes et seront choisis parmi les membres de la Cour de La Haye.

ARTICLE II.

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall, within three months from the signature of this Agreement, deliver to each member of the Tribunal hereby constituted, and to the other Party, a written or printed Case setting forth and arguing its claims, and a written or printed file containing the documents or any other evidence in writing or print on which it relies.

Within three months after the delivery of the above-mentioned Cases, each of the High Contracting Parties shall deliver to each member of the Tribunal, and to the other Party, a written or printed Counter-Case, with the documents which support it.

Within one month after the delivery of the Counter-Cases, each Party may deliver to each Arbitrator and to the other Party a written or printed argument in support of its contentions.

The time fixed by this Agreement for the delivery of the Case, Counter-Case, and Argument may be extended by the mutual consent of the High Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE II.

Chacune des Hautes Parties Contractantes devra, dans un délai de trois mois après la signature du présent Compromis, remettre à chaque membre du Tribunal constitué par les présentes, et à l'autre Partie, un Mémoire écrit ou imprimé exposant et motivant sa réclamation et un dossier écrit ou imprimé contenant les documents ou toutes autres pièces probantes écrites ou imprimées sur lesquelles il s'appuie.

Dans les trois mois de la remise des dits Mémoires, chacune des Hautes Parties remettra à chaque membre du Tribunal et à l'autre Partie un Contre-Mémoire écrit ou imprimé, avec les pièces à l'appui.

Dans le mois de la remise des Contre-Mémoires, chaque Partie pourra remettre à chaque Arbitre et à l'autre Partie des conclusions écrites ou imprimées, à l'appui des propositions qu'elle aurait mises en avant.

Les délais fixés par le présent Compromis pour la remise du Mémoire, du Contre-Mémoire, et des conclusions pourront être prolongés d'un commun accord par les Parties Contractantes.

ARTICLE III.

The Tribunal will meet at The Hague within a fortnight of the delivery of the Arguments.

ARTICLE III.

Le Tribunal se réunira à La Haye dans la quinzaine de la remise des Arguments.

Each Party shall be represented by one Agent.

The Tribunal may, if they shall deem further elucidation with regard to any point necessary, require from either Agent an oral or written statement, but in such case the other Party shall have the right to reply.

Chaque Partie sera représentée par un Agent.

Le Tribunal pourra, s'il juge nécessaire de plus amples éclaircissements en ce qui regarde un point quelconque, demander, à chaque Agent, une explication orale ou par écrit; mais, en pareil cas, l'autre Partie aura le droit de répliquer.

ARTICLE IV.

The decision of the Tribunal shall be rendered within thirty days of its meeting at The Hague or of the delivery of the statements which may have been supplied at its request, unless, on the request of the Tribunal, the Contracting Parties shall agree to extend the period.

ARTICLE IV.

La décision du Tribunal sera rendue dans les trente jours qui suivront sa réunion à La Haye ou la remise des explications qui auraient été fournies à sa demande, à moins que, à la requête du Tribunal, les Parties Contractantes ne conviennent de prolonger le délai.

ARTICLE V.

On all points not covered by this Agreement, the provisions of the Convention of The Hague of the 29th July, 1899, shall apply.

Done in duplicate at London, the 13th day of October, 1904.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

ARTICLE V.

Les dispositions de la Convention de La Haye, du 29 Juillet, 1899, s'appliqueront à tous les points non prévus par le présent Compromis.

Fait, en double exemplaire, à Londres, le 13 Octobre, 1904.

(Signé) PAUL CAMBON.

No. 127.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, October* 13, 1904.

THE United States' Chargé d'Affaires communicated the following message from Washington to the Persian Government on the subject of the Urmi murders:—

"The failure to punish the Labaree murderers has greatly disturbed the President. I will be constrained to lay the case before Congress, with such recommendations as may lead to compliance with our demands for effective justice, if no immediate satisfaction be given."

In conjunction with the note addressed by me to the Persian Government, in obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions, I trust that this will enforce active measures being taken by the Persian Government.

No. 128.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 539.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1904.

I SIGNED with the French Ambassador to-day the terms of reference to The Hague Tribunal in the case of the matters in dispute between the British and French Governments with regard to Muscat.

The documents having been signed, his Excellency observed that His Majesty's Government had asked to be furnished by the French Government with a list of the owners of dhows entitled to fly the French flag. As to this, he wished to remind me that at one moment the French Government had put forward a series of proposals for an amicable settlement of the difficulties which had arisen between us. It was a part

of this proposal that a list of the kind which I had mentioned should be put in by the French Government. We had, however, declined to accept the proffered terms, and had proposed as an alternative recourse to arbitration by the Tribunal at The Hague. In these circumstances it seemed to M. Delcassé that the French Government were no longer called upon to furnish the list. I said that I was not aware that the proposal had ever been dropped, and that I had always understood that the list was to be furnished whether we went to arbitration or not. In the circumstances I preferred to express no opinion upon the subject until I had refreshed my memory by reference to the correspondence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE

No. 129.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 8th October, relative to the withdrawal of the 123rd Outram's Rifles from Aden.

Copy will be sent to the Director of Military Operations.

India Office, October 13, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 8, 1904.

PLEASE refer to the Secret letter No. 130 of 1904 from Government of India, latter part of 5th paragraph.

We have withdrawn 123rd Outram's Rifles from Aden, as it was no longer required there. Aden garrison will still be one wing, native infantry, in excess of normal. This wing we hope may be withdrawn before long, as soon as troops on line of communication to Dthali can be dispensed with.

No. 130.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 13th instant, relative to the recent violation of the Amiri frontier.

India Office, October 14, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 13, 1904.

ADEN boundary. Turkish violation of Amiri frontier.

Your telegram of the 1st instant.

The fact that some villagers of Shakhab had quitted Turkish territory and settled on Amiri side of the border appears to have been the only reason for action of Turks. At 3 A.M. on the 14th ultimo the Kaimakam of Kataba and Yuzpasba surrounded Habib-al-Khadar with a force of fifty Turkish soldiers. Six Shakhab men were arrested and carried off, together with all their property. Merewether had told the

Kaïmakam, on the 10th ultimo, that direct action against these men should not be taken by him; but that if he addressed him he would be prepared to examine any allegation against the action of the Amir of Dthali, but it was his belief that villagers left Shakhab of their own accord.

The recommendation of the Bombay Government is that the removal of the Kaïmakam should be demanded. It is reported that the Turkish Government had already issued orders for his removal. In our opinion full explanations should be required, and urgent representations should be made against such open violation of borders recently demarcated.

No. 131.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Grant Duff.

(No. 139.)

Foreign Office, October 14, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE received Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 161 of the 1st ultimo, forwarding copies of correspondence with the Persian Government respecting the proposed extension of the Indo-European telegraph line to Bunder Abbas.

I approve the terms of the note which he has addressed to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 132.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 538.)

Paris, October 14, 1904.

My Lord,

THE article which I had the honour to forward to your Lordship in my despatch No. 519 of the 26th September, containing M. Presseq-Rolland's observations on the claims of France to Sheikh-Said, has been followed, in the same newspaper—the "Dépeche Coloniale"—by three others, explaining in detail the grounds on which the writer maintains that the above claims still hold good.

Although I have no reason to suppose that the French Government will allow itself to be drawn into reasserting a pretention so long since abandoned, I feel it my duty to transmit the articles in question for your Lordship's information.*

M. Presseq-Rolland lays stress on the purchase of a portion of the coast by the French Company, Maison Bazin, in 1868; on the alleged independence of the Arab Sheikh who sold it; and on the protests and reserves which he states have always been made when Turkey has taken any step to assert her rights.

Although a succession of French Governments have shown disinclination to take the matter up, the writer of the articles expresses the hope that the next Session of the Chambers will not be allowed to pass without a renewed effort to secure attention to the claims of this country over the region in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 133.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 783. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 9, 1904.

My Lord,

SINCE writing my despatch to your Lordship No. 777 of the 3rd instant, in which I stated that the Sultan had promised on the 23rd ultimo to agree to the proposed Aden frontier, daily communications have been passing between the First Dragoman of the Embassy, the Palace, and the Porte with a view to extract the fulfilment of the Sultan's promise in the usual form of an Iradé. The Grand Vizier and the Minister

* Not printed.

for Foreign Affairs repeatedly asserted that they knew of no obstruction or sudden objection or of difficulties being raised by the War Office. They could only explain the delay by confidentially whispering that it was very difficult to get the Sultan to attend to any business just at present.

Tired by these tactics, and unable to go myself to the Porte owing to indisposition, I sent Mr. Lamb to the Palace this morning with instructions to require a categorical answer, as I was leaving Constantinople the following day, and insisted upon knowing beforehand whether the promise of the Sultan had been kept or broken.

The Sultan's First Secretary informed Mr. Lamb that the Iradé was promulgated, and would be at the Porte as soon as the Office was open. Mr. Lamb went there and waited till past 4, but the Iradé had not yet reached the Minister.

I have instructed the First Dragoman to repair to the Minister for Foreign Affairs' private house to-morrow at 10, and to press his Excellency to go to the Palace and find out exactly whether the Iradé in accordance with His Imperial Majesty's promise has been given or not.

If there should be further procrastination in evidence of bad faith on the part of the Sultan, and if an affirmative answer is not received before I leave Constantinople to-morrow, I venture to suggest the expediency of sending any ship of war that may be available to station off Sheikh Saïd, or to cruise between there and Kuddam. I have little doubt that the result will be such as is desired without the least chance of recourse being necessary to more drastic measures of the sort.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 134.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 789.)

Constantinople, October 11, 1904.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir N. R. O'Conor's despatch No. 779 of the 5th instant, reporting the representations made by the Embassy on the subject of the violation of the Amiri frontier, I have the honour to report that I have been informed by the Turkish Government that a telegram had been received from the Vali of the Yemen to the following effect:—

"The Kaïmakam of Kataba reported that the incident complained of by the Political Officer at Dthali was merely the arrest within the limits of the Caza of Kataba of certain individuals who were endeavouring to pass over into the Ameer's territory for the purposes of contraband or in order to avoid the cattle tax.

"The Vali was not satisfied with the explanation, and had ordered the Mutessarif of Taiz to hold a personal investigation into the matter, and to take the necessary steps with regard to the Kaïmakam if he should be found to be in fault."

The Grand Vizier, when communicating the telegram to Mr. Lamb, informed him that he had instructed the Vali to invite the British Political Officer at Dthali to take part in the investigation.

I have telegraphed a brief summary of the foregoingto the Resident at Aden, to whom I am communicating a copy of this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

No. 135.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 794. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 11, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, copy of a despatch from the Military Attaché to the Embassy, containing some notes of a conversation which he held recently with the Minister of War.

His Excellency's allusion to a project of the Ottoman Government to build a line with military labour from Angora to Sivas and Erzeroum after the completion of the Hedjaz Railway is interesting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Mr. Townley.

(No. 63.)
Therapia, October 10, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report the following information obtained yesterday from the Minister of War which may be of interest.

As regards the fighting in Central Arabia, I asked if the relief expedition under Aarif Pasha had reached its destination, but I was informed that it had not yet left Medina owing to the difficulty of collecting sufficient transport for the march across the desert from Medina to Kassim. As regards the force with Ibn Rashid which Aarif Pasha was intended to help, the Minister of War said it was still in Kassim, apparently holding out there.

He mentioned also that reinforcements could arrive much easier from Medina than from the Euphrates, the route from Samawa by which the troops had come being exceptionally long and difficult. I congratulated him on the rapid work done in railway construction by the troops working on the Hedjaz Railway recently opened to Maan. He said they had now eight Nizam battalions at work on the line, which was being pushed on towards Medina, and many staff officers and men had gained valuable experience in railway construction which would be most useful training for work elsewhere.

The next railway he hoped they would build would be one from Angora to Sivas and on to Erzeroum, which would be of the greatest strategical value for bringing up Anatolian troops towards the Russian frontier.

I asked had not the Russians the first right of building railways in those districts, but he explained that arrangement was applicable only to concessions to be granted to foreign Companies, and as the Government itself intended to build the above line such objection could not hold.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL,
Military Attaché.

No. 136.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 799.)
Therapia, October 12, 1904.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir Nicholas O'Conor's despatch No. 783 of the 9th instant upon the subject of the Aden frontier negotiations, I have the honour to report that I called at the Sublime Porte on Monday last, after his Excellency's departure, and was told that the Iradé promised had actually been received, and that it was favourable, inasmuch as it approved the decision come to by the Council of Ministers.

Mr. Lamb again saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday, but failed to see the text of the Council's decision with the Iradé promulgating it. Tewfik Pasha assured him, however, that it was perfectly satisfactory, and in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum communicated by Sir N. O'Conor, and he authorized him to tell me that I could report to your Lordship in this sense.

The reason given for the non-production of the document was that it had been submitted to the Minister of War, in order that his Excellency might issue the necessary telegraphic instructions to the Turkish authorities of the Yemen charged with the conduct of the negotiations. Mr. Lamb was promised that as soon as these instructions had been sent I should be officially notified of the fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

No. 137.

Sir C. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 510.)
St. Petersburgh, October 13, 1904.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir C. Scott's despatch No. 18 of the 15th January last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of a notice which has appeared in to-day's issue of the official "Collection of Regulations and Dispositions of the Government," amending the Articles of Association of the Enzeli-Tehran Road Company.

The most noteworthy point about these amendments is the very large number of ordinary shares issued, which must necessarily be made nominative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Extract from the official "Register of Laws and Regulations of the Government," dated October 13, 1904.

(Translation.)

THE official "Register of Laws and Regulations of the Government" publishes the following additions and alterations in the Articles of Association of the Enzeli-Tehran Road Company:—

Paragraph 9 is amended as follows:—

"The share capital of the Company is fixed at 6,700,000 roubles, and is formed by emitting 15,000 ordinary shares and 52,000 privileged shares of the nominal value of 100 roubles each.

"The aforesaid ordinary and privileged shares can only be owned exclusively by Russian and Persian subjects."

Paragraph 15 is to read as follows:—

"Of the whole number of ordinary share (15,000), 3,750 may be issued 'to order,' while the remainder of the ordinary shares must be nominative. As regards the 52,000 privileged shares, these may be issued 'to order' or they may be nominative."

No. 138.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 15th ultimo, relative to Muscat affairs.

India Office, October 15, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 138.

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Confidential.)
Bushire, August 6, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to submit the report on the Muscat Customs revenue, called for in the concluding sentence of Foreign Department telegram dated the 9th ultimo.

2. The Political Agent's views and figures are set forth in his letter No. 352 of 1904 and inclosures, of which copies are appended.

3. Working out the figures independently on data available to me here, I have arrived at a slightly lower average revenue (about 800 dollars per annum less) than Captain Grey's estimate. But it is impossible to make one's premises absolutely accurate, and, as will be seen from the attached statement, the result of my calculations approaches his sufficiently closely to show that both are approximately correct. Allowing

some little discount for exemptions, I think we may for present purposes assume the possible revenue to be 3,20,000 rupees per annum.

4. It is, I believe, an axiom that a Customs Administration can be efficiently run at a cost of 10 per cent. on the total revenue handled, which would in this case amount to 32,000 rupees, leaving a net revenue of 2,88,000 rupees per annum, or 24,000 rupees per mensem.

The dollar exchange is low nowadays, and seems to revolve round the 125 point, and I think that if the offer made was that we should pay His Highness 20,000 dollars monthly, besides finding the working expenses, it would be as much as we could safely do.

5. As to the details of Captain Grey's exposition of the revenue, I need only make one remark, and that regarding the revenue realizable from Sur. Owing to the contumelious attitude of the Suris, and the difficult situation arising from the French flag question, the Sultan has never been able to collect the customs at Sur effectively. 6,000 dollars is the amount which has been paid from time to time by the Hindu traders who have ventured to buy the precarious farm, and they seem able to make up that amount out of occasional fees thrown at them by large Suri importers, as if to relieve their own consciences of the charge of smuggling wholesale.

I have little doubt, however, from inquiries which I have made from time to time, that, if proper arrangements were inforced at Sur, an income of 50,000 dollars would be realized, or else the Muscat revenue would be swelled by that amount, owing to the attraction of trade now diverted to Sur to avoid duty.

6. Supposing, then, an offer is to be made somewhat on the lines suggested, the first consideration is to decide upon the fundamental principle on which it will be shaped. In this connection I am not quite sure whether the Government of India still hold the view expressed in Foreign Department telegram dated the 22nd February, 1898, namely, that actual and direct control by Government would conflict with the independence of the Sultan, as secured by the Declaration of 1862.

Having regard to the more definite and unequivocal line of policy adopted in the Gulf during the present Viceroyalty, and to the favourable position which we occupy at the present moment, and also in view of our improved *entente* with France, perhaps a modification of the view in question might now be considered practicable.

From a local standpoint, as also from a French one, the measure would, I feel sure, present the same aspect, whether we actually ran the Customs, or whether we merely supplied a British official; and to my mind the rubicon between the one system and the other is difficult to define.

If we supply and pay the personnel, and make the Sultan a monthly allowance, balancing accounts with him at the end of the year, it amounts to our controlling the Administration, though, for purposes of discussion with outsiders, we may term it lending the Sultan officials to conduct his own Customs.

Seeing that at present his Customs Superintendent and nearly all the employés are British subjects, there would be very little advantage, in my opinion, in replacing the former by a British official, if he were to be subjected to the same demands and difficulties which beset the present man as banker to the Sultan. To meet our purposes, the revenue must be paid into a treasury as it comes in, irregularly according to the trade season, but must be paid out to the Sultan at a regular rate per month.

7. I think the Government of India realize that this is the only system which could have a satisfactory result, and will concur with me in thinking that, as long as that end is achieved, the question of definition of our control or assistance is one that might be diplomatically surmounted.

8. If it is not desired to pay money into the Government Treasury, a separate strong-room might be built for the Customs Superintendent.

9. When the proposal is made to the Sultan, I recommend that it be drawn up in the form of a Memorandum, in which the meaning of the figures of the first five years—1894–95 to 1898–99 (when His Highness used to farm his revenue)—would be thoroughly explained to him. He would then be made to understand what he ought to have realized per month during the last five years, and what we are prepared to do for him in future.

It would continue that, under present arrangements, he never seems to be able to keep out of debt; that it is impossible that we can see him getting deeper and deeper into the mire, with the prospect of leaving a heavily encumbered inheritance to his son.

10. In discussing the question with him, I think the figures should be treated only in dollars, as in column 4 of my statement, as the Sultan's own pocket is not affected by the exchange, and all his expenditure is in dollars.

11. It is by all means advisable that the Sultan should always be at liberty to see the accounts—once a quarter at any rate—and that we should pay him over any excess that may result after fulfilling the terms arranged.

12. In regard to the Memorandum suggested, it should, I think, be drawn up in rough in the Foreign Department, embodying the views of Government, and then be sent to the Political Agent and myself for any further suggestions that may occur to us from a local point of view. After the final settlement of its terms, it should be carefully translated into Arabic, and then read and patiently explained to the Sultan by the Political Agent.

13. I am sure one consideration which will weigh with the Sultan will be the disinclination to turn off his present Superintendent, Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim, who has, in His Highness's own opinion, served him faithfully, and to whom he is under a good deal of obligation.

The man himself is a capable, hard-working man, and if he has, as his enemies allege, lined his own pockets in the process, he has certainly put the Custom-house at Muscat on a much better footing than before. We should therefore set the Sultan's mind at rest as regards him, and undertake to give him suitable employment either as Deputy and travelling Superintendent at Muscat or elsewhere.

The institution of the arrangements at Sur and other ports would have to be discussed in detail, and it seems premature to go into them here. It would be better, I think, to postpone such questions until we see if the Sultan accepts our advice, and until the ground has been examined by a Customs expert.

Trusting that the above notes will form a basis on which Government will be able to come to a decision.

Supplementary Statement showing Revenue of Muscat Customs.

Year.	Value of volume of trade.	Amount of revenue which should have been realized at 5 per cent.	Amount actually realized by the Sultan. Customs Farm.	Arms.	Total.	Average dollar-rupee exchange for the year probably overstated.	Remarks.
	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars. Rupees.	
1894–95	3,708,180	185,409	115,000 +	40,000 =	155,000	100 = 210	Average exchange of five years = 177 rupees.
1895–96	3,708,210	185,410	125,000 +	40,000 =	165,000	100 = 190	
1896–97	4,788,800	239,440	123,000 +	40,000 =	163,000	100 = 180	
1897–98	5,372,000	268,600	140,000 +	(including arms)	140,000	100 = 160	
1898–99	4,289,000	214,450	145,000 +	40,000 =	185,000	100 = 145	
1899–00	4,134,020	206,701	Taken over by Sultan in November 1899.		206,701	100 = 125	Average exchange of five years = 126 rupees.
1900–01	4,725,776	236,288	Administered by Sultan		236,288	100 = 120	
1901–02	4,637,764	231,888	Ditto		231,888	100 = 130	
1902–03	5,711,950	285,597	Ditto		285,597	100 = 125	
1903–04	4,600,000?*	230,000	Ditto		230,000	100 = 130	
	45,675,700	2,283,783			1,998,474		
			Loss resulting from farming system ..		285,309		
					2,283,783		

	Dollars.	Rupees.	Rupees.
NOTE.—Average revenue realized by Sultan for Muscat Customs during 5 years ending with 1898–99	= 161,600 at 177 per cent.	=	2,86,032
Ditto ditto 1903–04	= 238,094 at 126 per cent.	=	2,99,998
Average of 10 years ..			2,93,015

(Signed) P. Z. COX.

August 6, 1904.

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* Figures for 1903–04 not available in Bushire.—P. Z. Cox.

Inclosure 2 in No. 138.

Captain Grey to Major Cox.

Muscat, July 19, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to comply with the request contained in your telegram of the 12th instant.

2. A Table showing the approximate details of Muscat (including outlying ports and Sur) and Gwadur Customs revenues is attached.

Those that I have concerning Sur are somewhat uncertain and inaccurate; but as the total yearly income from that port seldom exceeds 6,000 dollars, that would not appear to be of much consequence.

3. The averages of the past ten years are (nearly)—

	Rupees.
Muscat (including Sur, &c.)	2,93,855
Gwadur	30,635
Total ..	3,24,490

From these figures it would appear that the sum to offer the Sultan under a scheme such as that suggested in your letter No. 164 of 1904 to the Government of India in the Foreign Department should not be less than 26,000 rupees monthly, but whatever sum is fixed upon, I respectfully suggest that I should be permitted to point out to His Highness that, in the event of the receipts at the end of each year (after deducting expenditure) exceeding the sum fixed, the balance, whatever it may be, will be paid to him. This would show him that whatever other objects we might have, that of making anything by the transaction is not one of them, and would, I believe, materially add to our chances of getting what we want, as it disarms our adversaries of one of their chief weapons, which it will be remembered was made use of by them in their efforts to prejudice the Sultan against the "Nur-ul-Bahr," both on and since her arrival. Moreover, I suggest representing to His Highness that the extension of our influence in this connection, besides being productive of nothing but benefit to himself personally, cannot fail to militate against the eventual growth of French influence in Sur, of which he is particularly apprehensive.

4. Provided that a few internal difficulties can be got over, I believe that His Highness will be ready to agree to this arrangement.

Statement of Customs Revenue.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Year.	Muscat Customs, value in dollars.	Rate of Exchange.	Value in rupees.	Gwadur Customs, value in dollars.	Value in rupees.
		Rupees.	Rupees.		Rupees.
1894–95 ..	166,000	210	3,48,600	18,000	37,800
1895–96 ..	165,000	190	3,25,200	18,000	35,800
1896–97 ..	200,000?	180	3,62,000	20,000	36,000
1897–98 ..	200,000?	160	3,20,000	20,000	32,000
1898–99 ..	185,000	145	2,68,250	25,000	36,250
1899–00 ..	175,000	125	2,18,750	22,000	27,500
1900–01 ..	175,000	120	2,10,000	20,000	24,000
1901–02 .	230,000	130	2,99,000	20,000	26,000
1902–03 ..	230,000	125	2,87,750	20,000	25,000
1903–04 ..	220,000	130	2,99,000	20,000	26,000
Total .	1,946,000		29,38,550	203,000	3,06,350

Average of Muscat Customs receipts, including Sur and outlying ports, is 194,600 dollars or 2,93,855 rupees per annum for the past ten years.

Average of Gwadur Customs receipts is 20,300 dollars, or 30,635 rupees per annum for the past ten years.

(Average of Customs receipts of Sur is 6,000 dollars.)

(Signed) W. G. GREY, *Captain,*
Officiating Political Agent and Consul, Muscat.

Inclosure 3 in No. 138.

Captain Grey to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Muscat, August* 30, 1904.

IN connection with telegram No. 2208 from the Government of India in the Foreign Department to the Resident in the Persian Gulf, I have the honour to state, for information, that, in consequence of Saiyid Timur's recent severe illness, his marriage has been postponed for the present, and that the Sultan has not yet drawn from the Treasury any portion of the fresh loan which has been accorded to him.

2. Under these circumstances, I beg to submit that the proposal which Government desire to make to His Highness regarding change in his Customs Administration might with additional advantage be laid before he avails himself of the loan, and respectfully suggest that its dispatch from the Foreign Office may, if possible, be expedited.

3. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

No. 139.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a Secret despatch and inclosures to the Government of India, dated the 23rd September, relative to the Circular Note issued by the Persian Government respecting the transfer to foreigners of Concessions granted to Persian subjects.

India Office, October 15, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord, *India Office, September* 23, 1904.

I FORWARD herewith a copy of a letter* from the Foreign Office, transmitting a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran, inclosing a Circular Note which has been issued by the Persian Government with regard to the sale or transfer to foreigners of Concessions granted to Persian subjects.

2. Your Excellency will observe that Sir A. Hardinge suggests that this note should be published in "Aitchison's Treaties."

3. I take this opportunity of suggesting that if, in your opinion, the time has not yet arrived when the preparation of a revised edition of this valuable work should be undertaken, the question should be considered whether a supplementary volume might not usefully be prepared recording the Agreements which have been entered into since the last edition was issued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

No. 140.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 15th September, relative to French Consular representation in Bahrein.

India Office, October 15, 1904.

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* See No. 44.

Inclosure 1 in No. 140.

Political Resident in Persian Gulf to Government of India.

Bushire, August 25, 1904.

(Telegraphic.)

PLEASE refer to your telegram dated the 21st August. If the conditions which His Majesty's Secretary of State for India has suggested were imposed and accepted, it would perhaps be a useful recognition of our quasi-British Protectorate over Bahrein, and I should, for this reason, have recommended compliance with the request of the French Government had it been prompted by any other motive than the admitted desire of French merchants to gain access to pearl fisheries. As the matter stands, we are obliged by this request to face an issue which is none the less difficult because it has for some time been expected, and the future prosperity of Persian Gulf will be vitally affected by any decision come to now. The participation of French merchants in pearl fisheries and jurisdiction of French Consul mean presence of French man-of-war on pearl banks to protect dhows and diving gear of French subjects. If the Law Officers of the Crown have sufficiently full information, which I doubt, to make them sure that our time-honoured attitude is unassailable from the point of view of international law, then our course seems simple, and a more favourable moment for frankly asserting our intention to maintain *status quo* could hardly be chosen by us. If, on the contrary, the Law Officers are uncertain or insufficiently informed about the subject, then I very respectfully urge that the problem is too vital a one to be safely disposed of by telegram, and should be first subjected to the most deliberate investigation. Nevertheless, I submit my views in accordance with your instructions. The first alternative is as follows :—

That we should inform the French Government that the foreign relations of Bahrein are in our hands, and that a fully qualified Political Agent has been appointed. That we are prepared to give French subjects the good offices of our Agent and equality of treatment with our own subjects, and we trust this arrangement will be considered to meet the case. That in view of Treaty No. 31, Aitchison's, and the French Government never having previously had any Commercial Treaty with Bahrein, there are objections to bringing Bahrein within the sphere of a French Consulate. That with regard to pearl fisheries, it has been a fundamental principle of British policy in the Persian Gulf to preserve pearling rights of maritime tribes of the Arabian Coast immune from foreign intrusion, and that we are bound to maintain that disinterested policy by strong obligations to Sheikhs of the littoral, which we are neither able nor prepared to set aside. That for these reasons we could not consent to give facilities for foreign firms or European methods to compete with Arabian pearl-diving industries, and that we have always denied any such facilities to British subjects.

If the above line of argument is held to be impracticable, I suggest, as a second alternative, that we should agree to French proposals as regards jurisdiction of French Vice-Consul, subject to conditions specified in the telegram from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, and always supposing that Government is certain that consequent connection of Bahrein with Bushire may indirectly cause the Persian Government to revive their old claim to right over the island which is still impotently cherished by them. Such compliance would need to be accompanied by a similar declaration of policy and intention as suggested in alternative. Any concessions granted to the French will be forthwith claimed by German Consul in favour of Herr Wonckhaus, and doubtless the Russian Consul will also follow suit and demand equality of treatment. Furthermore, any grant of facilities to foreigners will naturally be followed by an outcry from British subjects like Streeter (London) and Malcolm (Bushire), whom we have kept out.

I recommend that, if a resolute line of action is decided on by His Majesty's Government, we should inform the Sheikh of Bahrein regarding French aspirations, and explain to him that the only manner in which he can be effectively helped by us is by the establishment of a formal British Protectorate, which must include control over his customs, which must be forthwith taken over by us. I also suggest that, in view of current reports pointing to imminent foreign intrusion, the Sheikhs of

Bahrein, Pirate Coasts, Koweit, El Kater, and Sultan of Muscat should be induced confidentially to give us formal documents, in which they would appeal and authorize us to protect their time-honoured pearling rights and methods.

I am sending by post a paraphrase of this telegram.

Inclosure 2 in No. 140.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

Simla, September 1, 1904.

(Telegraphic.)

PLEASE refer to your telegram dated the 17th August. Until our position as regards pearling banks is established, it would, in our opinion, be preferable to postpone the question of French Consular representation in Bahrein, more especially as it has been raised in connection with the proposed pearling enterprise of Frenchmen to which Arabs object. It is desirable also to defer decision until our Political Agent has established his influence at Bahrein, and until we have secured authority from the Sheikhs, if this is necessary. Careful consideration in this important matter is warranted by the dilatory tactics of the French, regarding M. Goguyer and the French flag case. We would, if immediate action is necessary, only recognize a French Vice-Consul at Bushire as Vice-Consul for Manama, on the clear understanding (1) that an exequatur for him be obtained from His Majesty's Government; (2) that his dealings shall be with the British Political Officer alone; and (3) that no extra-territorial jurisdiction shall be acquired by the French Vice-Consul; the British Political Agent exercising good offices as contemplated in the case of German subject, Herr Wenckhaus (*vide* our Secret-External despatch dated the 9th May, 1901). Mention of the intended pearling operations not only affords a convenient opportunity, but also seems to make it imperative to explain to the French Government the views of the Government of India as propounded in our despatch dated the 10th March, 1904, with such modifications, if any, as may be necessitated by the advice of Law Officers. Proposal may, if this be done, be dropped, and this would, in our opinion, be the most satisfactory solution of the subject. If it is considered necessary to obtain from the tribes concerned precise delegation contemplated in the letter dated the 30th June, 1904, from the India Office to the London Foreign Office, you will perhaps telegraph to us orders on the subject.

No. 141.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, October 17, 1904.

CONSULAR Guards.

Following sent to India :—

"I have received a verbal complaint from the Persian Government that two ships of war arrived recently at Mohammerah, and landed twenty sowars; they are doubtless the Kermanshah and Ahwaz escorts.

"I propose to reply that I was not aware that the Persian Government expected to be previously informed in the present case, as no previous notice was given in the case of the first landing of Consular escorts.

"An official application here for permission for the sowars to land was most undesirable, as such permission would certainly have been refused. I accordingly instructed His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire to apply locally to the Director of Customs, and to ask for similar facilities as had been granted in the case of the escort for the Russian Consulate-General at Bushire, which had been permitted to land a short time ago.

"Please inform me of the facts regarding the two men-of-war, and also whether you approve my proposed reply."

No. 142.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 18.)

Sir, *India Office, October* 17, 1904.

IN continuation of my letter of the 23rd September, on the subject of the recent violation of the Amiri border by the Turks, and with reference to your letter of the 14th instant, forwarding a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting the representations he has made to the Turkish Government, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to request that you will draw Lord Lansdowne's attention to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 13th instant, from which it appears that the persons arrested were not even accused of any criminal offence, but were merely villagers who had voluntarily left Turkish to settle in Amiri territory.

Mr. Brodrick would suggest that these facts should be communicated to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, with a view to further representations to the Turkish Government, should they be found necessary.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 143.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received Octber 18.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 18, 1904.

MY despatch No. 799 of the 12th instant: Aden.

Palace has recalled Iradé referred to in above-mentioned despatch. They give no reason for this step, which is most unusual, and still maintain that there are no objections.

In an interview which I had yesterday with the Grand Vizier I represented strongly that such an act of bad faith could not but be resented by His Majesty's Government, as it was an obvious attempt to take advantage of the Ambassador's absence on leave in order to avoid carrying out their engagements.

I added that if, in consequence of Sultan's action, His Majesty's Government declared that negotiations had failed and took the necessary steps to enforce Subaihi claims in their entirety, his Highness must not be surprised.

His Highness begged me to allow the First Dragoman to make one more effort this morning at the Palace, but though I agreed to this, I do not anticipate that any satisfactory result will follow.

I venture respectfully to urge that the course suggested in Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 783 of the 9th instant (last paragraph) be adopted.

No. 144.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 22nd September, relative to the murder of Captain Warneford and the proposed expedition against the Subaihi.

Copies have been sent to the Director Military Operations.

India Office, October 17, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 144.

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

(Confidential.) *Bombay Castle, September* 14, 1904.

WITH my letter dated the 11th August, 1904, I forwarded, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the correspondence* between the Political Resident, Aden, and this Government, on the subject of General Mason's proposal to organize an expedition against the Subaihi. In the reply to the Political Resident, the Governor in Council directed General Mason to submit more precise details of his proposals to invade the Subaihi country, together with clearer reasons for their adoption. It was pointed out to General Mason that the Subaihi were not one tribe, but were composed of several tribes (some of whom were certainly not connected with the murder of Captain Warneford or for the protection afforded to his murderer), and that he might, as a preliminary, proclaim that the British Government must hold the Mansuri tribe primarily responsible for the non-production of Saleh-bin-Haidera, and that the surrender of the murderer was demanded.

2. I am now to inclose, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter dated the 20th August, 1904, from the Political Resident. In the first place I am to explain that the statement that Saleh-bin-Haidera was a native of the Mansuri tribe was based upon paragraph 4 of General Maitland's letter dated the 13th March, 1904. It is clear from a further perusal of that letter that, though not specifically so stated, it was then implied that he was a native of the Rijai tribe, and had only escaped to the Mansuri country.

3. Turning now to the proposals embodied in General Mason's letter, I am first to offer the following remarks. The Governor in Council considers that, at the present juncture, when we are negotiating with Turkey in the hopes of being able to secure the peaceful settlement of the north-east boundary, and when our chief policy should be, in his Excellency's opinion, to impress upon the tribes our intention to preserve the *status quo* and to respect all existing rights, it would be a mistake suddenly to enter upon hostilities with any section of the tribes in the Hinterland without notifying to all concerned the reasons for such a proceeding, and clearly demonstrating to them that the object in view is solely punishment of such portions of the tribes as are concerned in the concealment, and escape from justice, of the murderer of one of our officers. As has been separately recommended, the Governor in Council holds strongly that we should notify to the tribes our intention to remain for the present at Dthala in order to secure that dissensions shall, for the time being at all events, be held in check. To act as is proposed by General Mason without any preliminary notice would be to raise in the minds of the tribes the presumption that we were bent upon acquisition rather than upon the surrender of the murderer of Captain Warneford. In these circumstances the Governor in Council adheres to the views expressed in my letter of instructions to General Mason, dated the 11th August last, and would propose to reiterate those directions as preliminary to anything in the nature of an attack upon one or more sections of the tribes.

4. The Governor in Council fully appreciates the advantages of a sudden incursion such as is proposed by General Mason (though he cannot but feel that the latter underestimates the difficulty of achieving an attack of such suddenness as will take the Arabs by surprise), and he does not propose that notice shall immediately precede action. His intention was, and is, that General Mason should issue a notice, giving a specified time-limit within which the tribe concerned should be required to comply with our demand for surrender, and that on expiration of such period, and after reporting the circumstances, the Resident should be at liberty to take such steps as may seem to him most likely to secure the punishment of the tribe and the surrender of Saleh. In fact, his Excellency regards it as of greater importance that we should impress the tribes with the purity of our motives than that we should at all costs secure the murderer.

5. Proceeding now to the precise proposals which General Mason submits for consideration, it will be seen that his general plan is to include in his operations the punishment not only of the Rijai section of the Subaihi, but also the Mansuri, Juberi, Ghulabi, Huyaimi, and Basus. From their geographical positions, being from south to north, the whole length of our western flank between Lahej and Musemir, it will be seen

* Political Resident, Aden, July 24 Bombay Government, August 11, 1904.

that these operations will practically include the invasion of the whole of the eastern Subaihi country. It is true that this does not appear to be a result contemplated by General Mason, but the Governor in Council cannot believe that operations undertaken with the object in view, if they extend also to the punishment of the tribes cited, can have any result other than to arouse the armed resistance of practically the whole of the Subaihi tribes upon the west of our communications with Dthala. The opportunity would most probably be taken by the Kotaibis to join in, and we should find ourselves face to face with the necessity for hostile operations on a large scale extending over a very wide area of country to the north-west of Aden.

6. This is a prospect which the Government of India are no more likely to view with equanimity than is the Governor in Council. This Government wish in no way to minimize the political importance of bringing home to such of the tribes as are responsible the realization of our determination to exact reparation for hostile acts, and to insist upon the surrender of the murderer of one of our officers. As observed by General Mason, Arab ideas of hospitality do not admit of such surrender, and the problem therefore is to devise means for enforcing our demand, while at the same time avoiding a general conflagration. This Government cannot but think that as a first preliminary we should limit our demand, and threat, to that tribe which, on the evidence available, seems most probably to be incriminated. There seems to be little reason to doubt that the Mansuri, and perhaps the Rijai, are alone concerned in Saleh's concealment. Consequently, the notice should be sent to the Sheikhs of those two tribes only, demanding their attendance or the surrender of the murderer; intimation being given simultaneously to the other tribes of the issue of the notice, and of an assurance that so long as they preserve neutrality and refrain from affording shelter to Saleh, the British Government will respect their interests and leave them alone.

7. The issues are of great importance and require very early instructions, since the season when operations can most easily be undertaken is now approaching, and I am accordingly to ask that the Governor-General in Council will favour this Government with very early orders upon General Mason's letter, and upon the suggestions contained in this letter.

Inclosure 2 in No. 144.

Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay.

Aden Residency, August 28, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, Confidential, dated the 11th instant, and with reference to paragraph 1, I would refer you to this office letter dated the 13th March last, from which you will see that Saleh-ba-Haidera belongs to the Rijai section of the Subaihi tribe and not to the Mansuri. Immediately after the murder he was reported to have taken refuge with the Mansuri, and since then he has been sheltered and assisted by most of the other Subaihi sections, notably the Mansuri and the Rijai. Not one of these sections has in any way, either by action or by giving information, endeavoured to assist in arresting the murderer; on the contrary, the following clans have lost no opportunity in giving us trouble—the Juberi, Ghulaibi, Huyaimi, and Basus.

2. I would point out that on the 27th June last, when taking over charge from Major-General Maitland, he distinctly told me that the Hinterland would never be properly kept in order unless the Subaihis were proceeded against and severely punished. I noted down his words at the time, and have the memorandum with me. Major-General Maitland also gave me his views as to advancing into the Subaihi country with a force for attack. Lieutenant-Colonel Davies, First Assistant Resident, also has continually impressed upon me the necessity of dealing with the Subaihis at an early date; further, in his letters from Dthala, Captain Merewether has constantly expressed his opinion in a most decided way that the Subaihis should be summarily dealt with. I have several of his letters to this effect. Under the above circumstances it can be readily understood how I arrived at the opinion expressed in my letter, Confidential, dated the 24th July, 1904.

3. The latest news obtained by Mr. Bury, whom I instructed to proceed into the interior on the 10th instant and ascertain the whereabouts of Saleh ba Haidera, is that he is in the Rijai country, and is living in the neighbourhood of a spring in the Wadi Um Riya known as the Mai Marfik; he, with Ali bin Hamed, a Sheikh Othman sowar, who accompanied him after the murder, and two other Arabs are tending flocks and have formed a settlement there. Mr. Bury had an interview with the Rijai Sheikh, Mahomed bin Salim, at Um Riya on the 12th instant, but the latter denied that Saleh ba Haidera

was in his territory, or that he knew where he was. I now have the honour to solicit instructions as to what action I should take should the above news be confirmed. I am credibly informed that one Arab is not likely to surrender another. Should I, therefore, demand the surrender of the murderer from the Rijai Sheikh, as suggested in paragraph 1 of your letter under reply, and if the Sheikh refuses to comply with my request, am I permitted to proceed against the section?

4. If so, I would suggest the following plan: I propose to make a forced march with cavalry, arriving in the early morning at the spring mentioned, and endeavour to arrest Saleh ba Haidera. Should this prove unsuccessful, I would ask that I may be allowed to surround the village of Um Riya, seize the Sheikh and his son and bring them into Aden.

5. I consider this action might induce the Subaihis, or some sections of them, to attack our convoys, but I think the suggestion I have made is the best way of enforcing compliance with our demand for the surrender of the murderer.

Inclosure 3 in No. 144.

Government of India to Government of Bombay.

Sir, *Simla, September* 22, 1904.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 1st September 1904, regarding the attitude of Mahommed Saleh and the Kotaibi tribe.

2. The Government of India see no objection to accepting hostages in the manner proposed from Mahommed Saleh should he offer them. As regards the grant of stipends to the Kotaibi or any other tribe in the Aden Hinterland, the Government of India entirely agree with the Governor in Council as to the undesirability of any offer or promise of such permanently recurring payments being made by the Resident without the previous approval of the Government of India. The wisdom of the direct grant of stipends to a tribe such as the Kotaibi, who are dependents of the Ameer of Dthala, seems, moreover, to be exceedingly doubtful, and is opposed to the policy which was advocated by the Bombay Government in paragraph 2 of their letter, dated the 18th April, 1904, and which led the Government of India in their Secret despatch, dated the 21st July, 1904, to recommend to the Secretary of State the grant of an additional monthly stipend of 100 dollars in addition to that proposed in consideration of the maintenance of a force of fifty men to be employed in such a manner as the Resident might desire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. RUSSELL,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 145.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 29th ultimo, relative to the Seistan Arbitration.

India Office, October 17, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 145.

*Government of India to Ameer of Afghanistan.**

My Honoured and Esteemed Friend, *Simla, September* 20, 1904.

I HAVE to thank your Highness for your letter of the 2nd Jamadi-us-Sani, 1322 H., corresponding to the 14th August, 1904, regarding the settlement effected by Colonel McMahon of the boundary dispute in Seistan.

* Ameer Habibulla Khan.

I am glad to learn that your Highness, in view of the relations of friendship and union existing between our two Governments, has been able to accept Colonel McMahon's award, and has agreed to his proceeding with the work of demarcation. I can assure your Highness that the rights of Afghanistan have been very fully considered, and that the settlement is one which your Highness will, in future, be able to regard as highly satisfactory to the interests of your country.

Your Highness asks me what are the nature and extent of the irrigation question with which Colonel McMahon has yet to deal. Your Highness will recognize that, without a definite decision regarding the water rights, which were the primary cause of the dispute which led to the appointment of the Arbitration Commission, the mere settlement of the land frontier would be of little avail to prevent future friction and trouble. It is very necessary, in the interest of both Afghans and Persians, to decide how a requisite supply of water from the Helmand can be assured to both parties, as contemplated by General Goldsmid's arbitral opinion, which did not enter into detail, but merely laid down in general terms that "no works are to be carried out on either side calculated to interfere with the requisite supply of water for irrigation on both banks of the Helmand." A clearer definition of the arrangement is especially necessary in the case of Afghanistan, owing to the possibility of the river changing its course, and being diverted entirely into Persian Seistan. Colonel McMahon has informed the Persian authorities that the water question will not be taken up until the demarcation is completed. Your Highness may rest assured that, in Colonel McMahon's hands, your interests will be carefully guarded. I have received a telegram from him, dated the 16th instant, in which he reports that, up to that date, your Highness' officials had not apparently received permission to co-operate in the work of demarcation. The period most suitable for delimitation on the ground has now arrived, and I accordingly trust that, unless your Highness has already done so, you will kindly send the necessary orders to the Afghan Commissioner without further delay.

No. 146.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, October 19, 1904.

KARUN irrigation schemes: See Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 113 of the 18th June last.

I have been confidentially informed by the Netherland Minister that M. van Roggen is on his way to the Karun, viâ Bombay, to make a further study of the question, with a view to the formation of an international Company, after obtaining a Concession from the Persian Government. M. van Roggen has received the sum of 400*l* from Persian Government funds.

I unofficially informed the Netherland Minister that I believed the grant of such a Concession would be strongly opposed by His Majesty's Government. He asked me whether he could report to his Government what I had said, and I replied that, provided he made it clear that the opinion I had given him was unofficial, he was at liberty to do so.

He is quite convinced that without the support of His Majesty's Government any schemes for the improvement of the Karun are destined to failure.

(Sent to India.)

No. 147.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Townley.

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, October 19, 1904.

ADEN. I have just repeated to you in my immediately preceding telegram the Viceroy's telegram of 13th October, on the subject of the violation of the Amiri border.

If you think it necessary to make further representation to the Porte on the subject, you are authorized to do so.

No. 148.

Foreign Office to the Law Officers of the Crown.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, October 19, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith, by direction of the Marquess of Lansdowne, the papers noted in the accompanying list, relative to the question of the steps to be taken to prevent foreign interference with the rights enjoyed by the tribes on the Arabian Coast of the Persian Gulf in the pearl fisheries.

It will be observed, from the India Office letter of the 30th June (Annex A), that the Government of India have called the attention of His Majesty's Government to the fact that by the steps they have consistently taken for more than a century to maintain the maritime peace of the Persian Gulf, they have deprived the Arab Chiefs on the coast of the means of forcibly protecting their interests in the pearl fisheries, and that they therefore feel themselves to be under an obligation to defend those rights in so far as they can reasonably be substantiated.

They cite instances in the past in which they have successfully intervened to prevent the intrusion both of foreigners by diplomatic means, and of British subjects.

They recognize, however, that the position is difficult, both in regard to British subjects and from the point of view of international law. They therefore desire to ascertain the extent to which they may be authorized to intervene, should the necessity arise.

The material facts may be stated as follows:—

1. The pearl fishery banks lie off the Arabian Coast of the Persian Gulf, and off the coast of Bahrein. They extend, as shown on the charts (Annex B), inclosed with the Government of India's letter, from Um-ul-Kawain to near the head of the Gulf. His Majesty's Government have identical Agreements (Annex C) with the Arab Chiefs of Raz-ul-Khaimah, Um-ul-Kawain, Ajman, Shargah, Debai, Abu Dthabi, and Bahrein, by which the Chiefs have practically surrendered their foreign relations into the hands of the British Government. The territory of these Chiefs comprises the Arabian Coast of the Gulf off which the pearl banks lie up to the island of Bahrein, with the exception of the promontory of El Katr, with whose Chief the question of making a similar Agreement is now under the consideration of His Majesty's Government. North of Bahrein, the sovereignty over the Arabian shore of the Gulf belongs to the Sultan of Turkey, with the exception of the territory of the Sheikh of Koweit, who has special relations with His Majesty's Government.

2. Apparently all the tribes fish for pearls wherever they are to be found, and no tribe has exercised a right excluding the other tribes from any part of the fishery.

3. Only members of the tribes have hitherto fished for pearls in these waters.

4.—(*a.*) Portions of some of the pearl banks lie within the 3-mile territorial limit.

(*b.*) Some of the banks extend from within the 3-mile limit outwards for several miles.

(*c.*) Some of the banks are entirely outside the 3-mile limit.

In all these cases the tribes have exercised an exclusive and concurrent right of fishing for pearls.

5. The tribes have not fished for pearls in the deep waters off the banks, having no appliances for deep-water fishing. It is apprehended that dredging for pearls in such deep waters would materially injure the pearl fishery on the banks; and it is desired, if possible, to prevent dredging in such deep waters.

6. The action to be taken for the protection of the pearl fishery would appear to depend on (1) the legal right of the tribes to a monopoly; and (2) the power of the British Government to act on their behalf in maintaining that monopoly. It is conceived that some precise delegation of authority to the British Government to act on behalf of the tribes in this matter would be necessary. It must be added that none of the tribes have any judicial system or Courts of Law for dealing with trespassers or trespassing boats.

A collection of confidential correspondence respecting the Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, which took place in 1891–1892 (Annex D), and copies of the Argument (Annex E) and Counter-Case (Annex F) of Her late Majesty's Government in the Behring Sea Arbitration (certain passages in which are specially marked) are inclosed herewith for your information.

I am to request that you will take the papers transmitted herewith into your consideration, and that you will favour Lord Lansdowne with your opinion:—

1. As to the legal rights of the tribes within, as also without, the 3-mile territorial limit:

2. As to the procedure to be followed in expelling interlopers and dealing with their boats and fishing appliances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

List of Papers.

(A.) Letter from India Office of June 30, 1904.
(B.) Charts showing position of pearl fishery banks
(C.) Agreement with Arab Chiefs.
(D.) Correspondence respecting Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, 1891–1892.
(E.) Argument in Behring Sea Arbitration.
(F.) Counter-Case in Behring Sea Arbitration.

No. 149.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 19, 1904.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 25th August last, relating to the Karun irrigation project, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that this Department will bear half the cost of the engineer of the Indian Irrigation Service whom it is proposed to send to Arabistan, on the basis of the estimate furnished by the Viceroy in his telegram of the 4th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 150.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 19, 1904.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran,* reporting a complaint made by the Persian Government respecting the landing of twenty Consular Guards at Mohammerah.

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Mr. Brodrick concurs, to approve the course of action suggested by Mr. Grant-Duff.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 151.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 20.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, October 20, 1904.

Sir,

WITH reference to a visit made to this Office yesterday by Mr. Maxwell, relative to the withdrawal by the Porte of an Iradé which had been issued with a view to the settlement of the southern boundary of the Aden Hinterland, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the concurrence of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a draft telegram which it is proposed to send to the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

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* No. 141.

~~Not printed.~~

Inclosure in No. 151.

Draft of proposed Telegram from Admiralty to Commander-in-chief, East Indies.

IN consequence of the withdrawal by the Porte of an Iradé which had been issued with a view to the settlement of the southern boundary of the Aden Hinterland, and the failure of representations made by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject, the Secretary of State wishes one of His Majesty's ships to make a demonstration by showing the flag at the most suitable places, suggesting a cruise along coast between Hodeidah, Kudano, and Sheikh Syed, but not actually visiting the latter place on account of the possibility of arousing French susceptibilities. After communicating with Resident at Aden as to points where demonstration would probably have most effect arrange to carry out this service, although the places mentioned are outside the limits of your station, and report by telegraph steps taken.

No. 152.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, October* 20, 1904.

URMI murders.

I have received the following reply from the Persian Government to my note carrying out the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram No. 64 of the 10th instant :—

"Mr. Daniel is a Persian subject. The Persian Government have already done their best in the matter of the murderer of the American missionary and his accomplices, and the arrest of the murderer has been the result of the steps taken by them ; further, in accordance with the list supplied by the United States' Legation, stringent orders have been given for the arrest of the accomplices.

"As regards the Mollah, you are fully aware of the previous correspondence and discussion on this subject.

"The Persian Government have written again to the competent authorities, and their reply will be communicated to you in due course."

The above is merely a repetition of the old excuses and arguments. Without strong pressure I do not think that the Mollah will be removed.

The United States' Chargé d'Affaires states that he has been informed that direct orders have been telegraphed to the Valiahd by the Shah for the arrest of the accomplices. He thinks that the Persian Government are beginning to realize the seriousness of the matter, although he is not sanguine of the result.

I will try and discover if real efforts are being made to comply with our demands, as I have asked to see the Grand Vizier as soon as possible.

No. 153.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to the Persian Minister.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1904.

DURING the course of our conversation to-day as to the Hashmat-ul-Mulk, I told you that whilst I recognized the courtesy of the terms in which the instructions received by you from the Persian Government were framed, it seemed to me that in substance the reply was far from satisfactory. The attitude of His Majesty's Government was not actuated by suspicion or unfriendliness towards the Persian Government, but by a desire that the Shah should be represented in Seistan by a high official who was well disposed towards this country and on good terms with its Representatives. Without for a moment doubting the friendly sentiments which His Majesty the Shah entertains towards this country, the relations between the two countries must to some extent depend upon the local Agents whom they employ, and from this point of view the dismissal of the Hashmat-ul-Mulk, whose downfall would certainly be attributed to his good-will towards this country, could not fail to have a most unfortunate effect, and would create a situation which might compel His Majesty's Government to alter fundamentally their policy as regards Seistan and the adjoining regions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 154.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Grant Duff.

(No. 143.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1904.

THE Persian Minister called upon me to-day, and made to me a statement to the following effect in reference to the Hashmat-ul-Mulk :—

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs had telegraphed to him that a note had been received from His Majesty's Legation at Tehran, stating that His Majesty's Government had been informed that the Hashmat-ul-Mulk was not to be permitted to return to Seistan, and that this news had caused them much surprise. They hoped

that the Persian Government would give an assurance that this report was unfounded, and they drew attention to the fact that the disturbance of the political *status quo* in the district, which would be involved in the removal of the Hashmat-ul-Mulk and the appointment of another person in his place, would not facilitate the fulfilment of the wish expressed by the Shah that Colonel McMahon and the force under him should be withdrawn from Seistan.

The Persian Minister was instructed to seek an interview with me, and to say that, in view of the firm friendship which had existed from time immemorial between Persia and Great Britain, and which Persia valued very highly, the Persian Government were surprised that any suspicion should be entertained against them, and that the assistance which they had afforded in matters relating to Seistan and other districts should be considered due to the Hashmat-ul-Mulk or persons like him. The Persian Government were friendly with the British Government, and acted in accordance with the requirements of friendship. The Shah's relations with the King were most amicable, and it was the object of His Imperial Majesty's special care to fulfil the conditions of those relations. Government servants, such as the Hashmat-ul-Mulk and persons like him, were all subordinate servants, and were every one of them obedient to the wishes and commands of His Imperial Majesty. How could they diverge from or exceed their commands? Whoever might be Governor of Seistan or of any other district would act in accordance with the Shah's wishes and commands, and with due regard to the cordial friendship which both Great Britain and Persia were bound to maintain. But foreign protection of Government servants and provincial Governors was prejudicial to the internal affairs of Persia. Considering the firm friendship happily existing between the two Governments and the good intentions of the Shah, how could His Majesty's Government permit their Legation to take a step which would in any way prejudice these internal affairs? The Persian Government appointed any one they considered suitable and fit to fill the office of Governor or any other post, and, of course, every appointment was made with thorough knowledge of the person and of the state of the district to which he was appointed. In this way affairs could be better adjusted, and any change made would be beneficial to Persian interests.

I told the Minister that, while I recognized the courtesy of the terms in which the communication was framed, the answer of the Persian Government seemed to me far from satisfactory. I could not understand why they should regard our attitude as to the Hashmat-ul-Mulk's dismissal as unfriendly or suspicious. It was extremely important to us, considering the position of Seistan, that the Persian Government should be represented there by a high official who was acceptable to us, and his dismissal, which was commonly believed to have been brought about owing to the good will which he had shown towards us, could not fail to have the most unfortunate result. It was all very well to say that the action of the Persian Government in Seistan would depend upon the Shah's wishes, and would be inspired by the friendship which His Majesty entertained towards this country, but we all knew that in such cases much depended upon the local Agents employed. We had no wish to interfere gratuitously in the internal affairs of Persia, but it was all-important to us that in such a case some regard should be had to our interests. The Minister protested earnestly that the withdrawal of the Hashmat was not due to pressure on the part of Russia, or to his friendly disposition towards this country, and assured me that the Hashmat had been guilty of very tyrannous conduct, which had brought upon him the displeasure of the Persian Government.

I subsequently addressed to the Minister a note, of which a copy is inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No 155.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, October 20, 1904.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran relating to the question of Persian Gulf quarantine,* and reporting the establishment of a Sanitary Council at Tehran.

* No. 17.

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if the Secretary of State for India concurs, to approve the terms of the language and notes addressed by Sir A. Hardinge to M. Naus on this subject.

It will be observed that Sir A. Hardinge inquires as to the attitude to be adopted by His Majesty's Legation towards the new Sanitary Council, and his Lordship would be glad to be favoured with Mr. Brodrick's observations in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 156.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 20, 1904.

Sir,

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 6th May last and to previous correspondence, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of further papers respecting the Aden boundary delimitation.*

It will be seen that on the 11th August His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople submitted to the Turkish Government certain proposals for the settlement of this question. These proposals were approved by His Majesty's Government, and were accepted by the Porte.

At an interview on the 23rd ultimo, the Sultan assured Sir N. O'Conor that he would give his formal consent to the Aden delimitation on the following day. But on the 9th instant his Excellency reported that he was meeting with difficulties in his endeavours to obtain the fulfilment of this promise, in the usual form of an Imperial Iradé. He suggested that, should there be further procrastination or evidence of bad faith on the part of the Turkish Government, it might be expedient to send a British ship of war to station off Sheikh Saïd or to cruise between that place and Kudam. He had little doubt that such a step would obtain the desired result, without it becoming necessary to have recourse to more drastic measures.

On the 12th October last, His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople stated that he had been informed by the Porte that he had actually received the promised Iradé, and that its terms were perfectly satisfactory. On the 18th, however, Mr. Townley reported that the Iradé had been recalled by the Palace, no reason being assigned for this unusual step, and he urged the adoption of the course suggested by Sir N. O'Conor.

Lord Lansdowne, after consultation with the Secretary of State for India, considers that the time has now arrived for carrying out the recommendation of Sir N. O'Conor, and I am to inquire whether the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty can spare one of His Majesty's ships for the purpose.

Lord Lansdowne would be glad to be favoured with their Lordship's opinion as to the point on the Arabian coast at which it would be most convenient to make this demonstration. As the French Government have in time past put forward claims to Sheikh Saïd, the ship should not call at that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GORST.

No. 157.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 21.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams relative to the murder of Captain Warneford.

Copies have been sent to the Director of Military Operations.

India Office, October 20, 1904.

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* See Part XIX, No. 159; and *ante*, Nos. 119*, 133, 136, and No. 143.

Inclosure 1 in No. 157.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 6, 1904.

PLEASE see papers contained in letter from Foreign Secretary of the 25th August, as to arrest of murderer of Captain Warneford. Reports received hitherto are very vague, but Resident at Aden now has hopes that accurate information as to the hiding-place of the murderer may be secured. We have asked to be furnished with definite information as to whether it would be possible to locate murderer or to obtain clear proof that he is being harboured; also, whether we could make sure that cavalry raid to secure person of murderer could be carried out successfully. In the event of this information being obtained, we propose to sanction raid in order to seize murderer and the principal people who are sheltering him. Should this prove impracticable, though we are extremely reluctant to become involved in anything like military operations, it may, nevertheless, be necessary to undertake an expedition against the tribe harbouring the murderer. He is stated to be in Rijai territory, near Amrija.

Inclosure 2 in No. 157.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 12, 1904.

ADEN boundary: Warneford's murder.

Your telegram of 6th October. Before sanctioning any action please report result of inquiries.

No 158.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, October* 21, 1904.

GOVERNORSHIP of Seistan.

Following telegram received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed:—

"The Governor-General informs me that the appointment of the Yamin-i-Nizam as Governor of Seistan, in the place of the Hashmet-ul-Mulk, who will not return there, has been decided on by the authorities in Tehran. The Asaf-ed-Dowleh does not seem to want the Yamin. Kindly let me know if I can do any good by working the Governor here against the Yamin, and also what our policy now is as regards the Governorship of Seistan."

(Above telegram was addressed to India, and repeated to Seistan and Tehran.)

I have confidentially informed His Majesty's Consul-General at Meshed of the tenour of your Lordship's telegram.

I am pressing for a reply from the Mushir-ed-Dowleh to my note, which was addressed in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram above mentioned.

No. 159.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Townley.

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1904.

I SENT for the Turkish Ambassador yesterday, and spoke to him in strong terms on the subject of the recall of the Aden Iradé, as reported in your telegram No. 146 of the 18th instant.

Having recapitulated the facts as reported by Sir N. O'Conor and yourself, I said that as His Majesty's Ambassador had remained at Constantinople for the express purpose of concluding the negotiations, it was inconceivable that the Iradé had been withdrawn directly after his departure.

I repeated to his Excellency your observations to the Grand Vizier, and said that

they were fully approved by His Majesty's Government. I also mentioned that I had heard with regret of the Amiri encroachment, and that it was unfortunate that it should have occurred simultaneously with the Iradé difficulty.

I asked his Excellency to inform his Government that I had sent for him, and spoken to him in the above sense, and I added that it was obvious that we could not leave matters where they were, although I would not now refer to the question of the steps we might have to take to enforce our claims.

His Excellency said he would telegraph my remarks to the Turkish Government.

No. 160.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Grant Duff.

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1904.

I SAW the Persian Minister yesterday, and he gave me the reply of his Government to your note on the subject of the Hashmat-ul-Mulk, which was based on my telegram to you, No. 63 of the 6th instant.

No satisfactory assurance is given in this connection, and they deprecate any interference in their internal affairs.

I told the Persian Minister that if the Hashmat was dismissed, a situation would be created which might compel His Majesty's Government to fundamentally alter their policy as regards Seistan and the adjoining regions, and that such dismissal would certainly be attributed to his goodwill towards this country, and could not fail to have a most unfortunate effect.

Similar language should be used by you to the Persian Government with reference to your telegram No. 113 of to-day.

No. 161.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 15th September, relative to piracy in the Persian Gulf.

India Office, October 19, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 161.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Sir, *Bushire, August* 27, 1904.

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with Foreign Department telegram dated the 17th August last, I have the honour to forward a copy of letter of the 20th instant from the Assistant Political Agent, Bahrein.

A copy has also been forwarded to His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, whose views have been asked as to whether His Majesty's ship "Merlin," now at Bussorah, can be spared to go in search of the pirate.

The course followed by Sheikh Jassim-bin-Thani is of some interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. Z. COX.

Inclosure 2 in No. 161.

Mr. Gaskin to Major Cox.

Bahrein, August 20, 1904.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter dated the 7th August last, I have the honour to report that the Chief of Bahrein this morning sent for my perusal a letter, dated the 9th instant, from Sheikh Jassam-bin-Thani, introducing to him the victims of the piracy mentioned in paragraph 340 of this Office diary, dated the 13th instant, and requesting him to move in the matter with the view to prevail upon the Turks to restore the stolen property and punish the perpetrators of the crime.

The Chief states that since the British Government prohibit the Arab Chiefs sending out armed boats to patrol the seas against pirates, the Chiefs conform to the policy, and rely upon the British Government to employ their good offices when occasion arises, and for this reason Sheikh Jassim invokes our assistance rather than apply direct to the Turks. I think that this instance goes to show that it is Sheikh Jassim's desire to cut himself adrift from the Turks, and, not knowing how we should take a direct application for help, he makes it through Sheikh Isa.

Saad and Ali, sons of Mohamed-el-Mehanedi, the victims, state that they left Khor Shagig on the 7th instant, taking with them cash to the amount of rupees 2,467 : 8 in rupees, dollars, and Turkish liras, and 780 rupees worth of pearls, to meet some debts in Bahrein and make some purchases, that when at Fasht-el-Debil, off Ras Rakan, they dropped anchor, awaiting a favourable wind to take them to Bahrein, and while they were asleep at noon that day the pirate, Ahmed-bin-Selman, with fourteen companions, boarded them and towed them to Howar Island, where the pirates relieved them of everything they possessed, and allowed them to go, and that they proceeded to Lusail, and reported the matter to Sheikh Jassim. They declare that what was taken from them was all they possessed in the world, and that they are indebted to British and Bahrein subjects.

I have sent copies of these men's statements to the Acting Mutessarif of Al Hassa and the Kaimakam of Katif, giving the indebtedness of the men to British and Bahrein subjects as my reason, and expressed a hope that measures will be taken for the apprehension of the culprits.

I beg to inclose a statement of the property plundered by Ahmed-bin-Selman and his companions, and venture to request that the case may be brought to the notice of his Excellency the Wali of Bussorah, who, at the same time, may be pressed to do what is necessary in the matter.

Inclosure 3 in No. 161.

STATEMENT of the property plundered from Saad and Ali, sons of Mahomed-el-Mehanedi, by Ahmed-bin-Selman and his gang on August 7, 1904.

Description.	Rs.	a.	p.	Amount. Rs.	a.	p.
Cash rupees	1,300	0	0			
750 dollars at 137 per cent.	1,027	8	0			
10 Turkish liras at 14 per cent.	140	0	0			
				2,467	8	0
Pearls	..		..	780	0	0
2 rifles	..		..	150	8	0
Clothes	..		..	100	0	0
1 gold ring	..		..	24	0	0
1 sail	..		..	40	0	0
1 small boat	..		..	80	0	0
Total	..		..	3,642	0	0

(Signed) J. C. GASKIN,
Assistant Political Agent.

Bahrein, August 20, 1904.

No. 162.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October* 22, 1904.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 142 of the 19th October: Amiri frontier.

I have been practically informed by the Grand Vizier that the Turkish Government have decided on the removal of the Kaïmakam of Kataba. His Highness asked me not to make any demand in that sense.

I replied that I was glad to learn this, as I was certain that His Majesty's Government would much prefer that the necessary punishment should be inflicted by the Turkish Government of their own accord.

No. 163.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, October* 22, 1904.

CONSULAR Guards.

With reference to my telegram No. 110, the Mushir-ed-Dowleh to-day told me that the withdrawal of all Russian guards from Persia was at present a subject of negotiation with the Russian Government both here and at St. Petersburgh.

If Russia agreed to do so, he hoped that His Majesty's Government would be prepared to withdraw Consular and other guards. In reply, I told his Excellency that I would lay the matter before your Lordship.

I ascertained that the officers of the Cossack Brigade, who are in the service of the Shah, would not be included in the withdrawal of the Russian guards.

(Sent to India.)

No. 164.

Consul Grey to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 5.) *Muscat, October* 4, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Foreign Office despatch No. 3, Commercial, dated the 26th August last, and to report on the passages marked in Mr. Maclean's Report as follows:—

1. The charge of 5 per cent. on dates, &c., arriving at the coast ports is, as Mr. Maclean observes, not in accordance with Treaty obligations. The late Sultan of Muscat, Syed Turki, a firm ally of the British, was allowed by the Government of India to introduce it in 1885, and it has since remained a recognized institution. For political reasons, I do not feel able at present to suggest that steps should be taken for its discontinuance.

2. The collection of customs duties at Soor has always been a difficulty, and it is at present a source of annoyance to the Sultan. Undoubtedly the existence there of so-called French protégés tends to increase the difficulty. I add an extract from a letter written by my predecessor to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf in September 1901, which explains this point and throws light on one aspect of the Sultan's unpleasant position in regard to the French flag question as it stands at present:—

"The Sultan's inability to enforce regular customs duties at Soor has been in a great measure the effect rather than the cause of the French flag movement in that quarter. Several of the flag-holders are among the most wealthy inhabitants of Soor, and during the open season each is in the habit of importing from Bombay three or four dhow-loads of rice, coffee, and other food-stuffs for trading purposes and local consumption. In most cases these persons, knowing that Syed Feisal (the present Sultan) feared to take reprisals against them by reason of their possession of French papers, have refused to pay customs duties at all, and when remon-trated with defy the Wali (Governor) and customs farmer. In others they have perhaps paid a tithe or less of the amounts due from them.

"Seeing their fellows of the French flag thus defying the Sultan and getting their trade goods duty free, Syed Feisal's otherwise loyal adherents are naturally inclined to follow suit, and it is only with the utmost difficulty that he recovers his dues from them. And yet to punish the latter without punishing the French protégés would simply have been to put a premium on their passing under the French flag."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. GREY.

No. 165.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 814.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 18, 1904.

I HAVE received a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran upon the subject of the desirability of an arrangement being arrived at between the Vali of Bussorah and the Sheikh of Mohammerah, under which Turkish and Persian guards should be reciprocally permitted to arrest pirates in the Shat-el-Arab on each other's territory, and hand them over to the authority from which they depend. I understand that Sir Arthur Hardinge has reported to your Lordship in this sense.

I raised the question in conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday, and asked his Excellency whether he thought it would not be possible to make some such arrangement, which it might be hoped would conduce to the suppression of piracy in the Shat-el-Arab. Tewfik Pasha replied that the question had been frequently discussed, and that the Turkish Government had proposed to make an arrangement of the nature suggested with the Persian Government, but that the latter had answered that such an understanding would constitute an Extradition Treaty, which they did not desire, and that they were averse to entering upon an engagement which they were aware that the military resources at their disposal were insufficient to enable them to execute properly. His Excellency added that he did not think it would be feasible to make a local arrangement.

I am informing Sir A. Hardinge of the above.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

No. 166.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 822.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 18, 1904.

IN my despatch No. 799 of the 12th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship of the conditions under which I was assured at the Sublime Porte on the 10th instant that an Imperial Iradé, relative to the Aden frontier, had been issued in the sense of the decision come to by the Council of Ministers, and that it was satisfactory. The following day Mr. Lamb was told that the affair was proceeding according to our wishes, but that the Ottoman Government did not wish to communicate the text of the decision to the Embassy until the Minister of War had sent the necessary instructions to the Yemen authorities.

On the 13th, in answer to a further inquiry at the Porte, I learned that the Iradé had been recalled by the Palace, in consequence of some representations received from the Military Commandant of the Yemen by the Sultan, to the effect that there was some doubt as to the extent of territory ceded, but I was assured that it was a trifling matter which would soon be set straight.

I instructed Mr. Lamb to call upon the Grand Vizier on the 15th instant, and to tell his Highness that I could not suffer any longer delay, and that unless he was able to give me a satisfactory answer on the following Monday, I should feel myself obliged to inform your Lordship of the evident bad faith of the Ottoman Government, and that His Majesty's Government would probably send a ship to the spot, or take such steps as might be necessary to make good the claims of the Subaihi in their entirety. Mr. Lamb was unable to see the Grand Vizier, but left a written Memorandum in this sense for his Highness.

I called at the Sublime Porte yesterday and asked the Grand Vizier whether he had any satisfactory news to give me. On learning that he had not, I upbraided his Highness for the bad faith shown in this matter by the Sultan and his Ministers, which, I said, could not fail to greatly anger His Majesty's Government, more especially as it was evident that they were endeavouring to take advantage of the Ambassador's absence to shirk their engagements. It only remained for me, I said, to report the state of affairs to your Lordship, and his Highness must not be surprised if it resulted in His Majesty's Government withdrawing their very favourable offer, and proceeding to such action as they might consider necessary to establish the entire claims of the Subaihi, which would include Sheikh Seyed and Turba.

The Grand Vizier was unable to adduce any good reason for what had occurred, but it was quite evident that the hitch is due to some Palace intrigue, and that the Grand Vizier did not himself dare to put the case in its true light before the Sultan.

He begged me to wait one more day before telegraphing to your Lordship, and to let Mr. Lamb make one further effort at the Palace this morning to get the matter settled, at an hour when he himself would be there.

To the latter part of this proposal I assented, but as I had not the smallest expectation that there would be any satisfactory result from the visit, I this morning telegraphed to your Lordship how the matter stands, and expressed my humble opinion that we shall not reach any termination of this long-standing question until some such step as that suggested in the last paragraph of Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 783 of the 9th instant has been taken.

I have just had a visit from Yusuf Bey, an official of the Sublime Porte, who called under instructions from the Grand Vizier to ask me to have patience until Thursday, when his Highness promises me that I shall receive an answer about the proposed frontier. He was unable to tell me what had caused the delay, but he believed it was due to some discrepancy in the position as shown on the maps here with the reports received from the Yemen. Telegraphic explanations had been called for, but until they were received no final decision could be taken.

I replied that I should be very glad to receive a satisfactory answer on Thursday, but that meanwhile it was my evident duty to report to your Lordship on the state of the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

No. 167.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 25.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated the 24th October, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, October 25, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Mr. Townley.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 24, 1904.

ADEN delimitation. Following telegraphic correspondence has passed with Embassy at Constantinople:—

Telegram No. 46, dated the 23rd October, from Embassy:—

"Your No. 36. Iradé has been recalled; repeated assurances have been given that it is about to be issued again, but it does not reappear. In the meantime, no objections are raised to settlement in accordance with Memorandum presented to Porte by Sir N. O'Conor."

Telegram No. 37, dated the 24th October, from Fitzmaurice to Embassy:—

"Your No. 46. Please refer to the first paragraph of my telegram No. 30. I would venture to submit that it might be advisable now for me to lay claim to the

Akama-Kudam line, since terms offered in the Memorandum of the 11th August have not, in spite of long delay, been accepted by the Sultan. He would thus be left to approach us in order to obtain recognition of his position at Sheikh Said. Latter lies well within Subaihi limits, and delimitation of that canton was first proposed by Sultan. No border incidents are to be anticipated along portion of the boundary still outstanding, as population is very sparse. Nothing is lost, therefore, by the matter being left open. Having regard to possible remoteness of final settlement, there would seem to be no practical advantage in prolongation of stay here of Turkish Commissioner and myself. If necessary, in order to complete formalities as to boundary, I could meet him again later, either at Constantinople or Sanaa."

(Repeated to Secretary of State and Foreign Secretary, Government of India.)

No. 168.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Towdey.

(No. 146. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 25, 1904.*

ADEN. Withdrawal of the Iradé.

With reference to my telegram No. 143 of the 21st instant, His Majesty's Government propose to send a ship of war to watch over British interests, as they cannot allow the frontier question, which had been settled amicably after much negotiation, to remain open.

A telegram to the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station on the subject is repeated to you for your information.

[Repeats Inclosure in Admiralty, October 20, 1904.]

Inform the Porte of His Majesty's Government's decision.

No. 169.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Foreign Office, October 25, 1904.

Sir,

THE Marquess of Lansdowne has considered, in communication with the Secretary of State for India, your letter of the 20th instant, respecting the proposed dispatch of one of His Majesty's ships to the Arabian coast, in connection with the action of the Turkish Government in withdrawing the Aden Delimitation Iradé.

I am directed by his Lordship to inform you that he concurs in the terms of the telegram which it is proposed to send to the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies Station on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GORST.

No. 170.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 26.)

India Office, October 25, 1904.

Sir,

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and inclosure, of the 19th instant, and in reply to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, that he concurs in the proposal made by Sir N. O'Conor in his letter of the 9th instant that Mr. Fitzmaurice, on leaving Perim, should proceed to Calcutta to discuss with the Government of India the question of the demarcation of the Aden frontier north-eastwards to the desert.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 171.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, October 27, 1904.*

MESHED-SEISTAN Telegraph Line.

Report received from Meshed that five new Russian telegraph employés have arrived, and that they are expecting five more.

Russian telegraph clerks have informed British telegraph clerk there that the Russian Government are shortly going to take over the line from Seistan to Meshed.

The arrival of five Russian clerks is admitted by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, but he denies that the Seistan line will be handed over to Russia. I am endeavouring to get a denial in writing. These clerks are partly destined for the Seistan line and partly for Kuchan. The plea that we have two clerks in Seistan is urged as an excuse by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

The employment of Russian clerks on the Seistan line will be strongly opposed by the Minister of Telegraphs.

(Sent to India.)

No. 172.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, October 27, 1904.*

MURDERS at Ouroumia.

Stringent orders have been sent to the Valiahd to dispatch cavalry in order to capture the accomplices, according to a statement made by the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, but His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez, from whom I have made inquiries, does not believe this statement to be true.

The United States' Government are sending a Special Commissioner to deal with the case, according to information received by my United States' colleague.

No. 173.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tehran, October 27, 1904.*

CONSULAR Escorts.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh has given me a verbal promise not to make further difficulties at present about the entry of escorts, but states that he will await the result of his negotiations with the Russian Government, and then raise the question, if necessary.

I shall, if possible, let the matter of the landing of escort at Mohammerah from the alleged ships of war drop, as the Persian Government have not again referred to it.

(Sent to India.)

No. 174.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 28.)

India Office, October 26, 1904.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 19th instant, stating, with reference to the Karun Irrigation Scheme, that Foreign Office funds will bear half the cost of the deputation of an engineer of the Indian Service to Arabistan, on the basis of the estimate furnished by the Viceroy, and to acquaint you in reply, for

the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, that the Secretary of State for India in Council agrees to the deputation of an Indian officer to report upon the scheme.

Mr. Brodrick will send the necessary instructions to the Government of India on learning the date on which it is thought desirable that the officer selected should start, and the course he should follow on arriving in Persia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 175.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 28.)

India Office, October 27, 1904.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Villiers' letter of the 13th September last on the subject of the Borasjun-Ahwaz-Mohammerah telegraph line, and, in reply, to say that he has nothing to add to the remarks contained in paragraph 4 of Sir A. Godley's letter of the 17th February last on this subject.

I am, however, to point out that between Fao and Bussorah the Turkish telegraph line runs along the bank of the Shatt-el-Arab, and that if the Turkish Government could be persuaded to open a telegraph office on this line, opposite to Mohammerah, and a boat service could be arranged for the delivery of messages, it would improve the telegraphic communication with that port, and provide it with a fairly efficient service, if the Turkish Administration worked its office properly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HARDWICKE.

No. 176.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 27th October, relative to quarantine arrangements in the Persian Gulf.

India Office, October 28, 1904.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

October 27, 1904.

(Telegraphic.) P.

INFORMATION has just reached me of intention to depute Bussière, who we now learn is also doctor to Russian Consulate at Bushire, to Kermanshah for quarantine work. Intention has now, however, been abandoned for the time. We would invite reference to the despatches Nos. 143 and 152, dated the 3rd and 16th August respectively, from His Majesty's Minister at Tehran, and would suggest for consideration whether, in return for our consenting to abandonment of the existing practice by which orders as to quarantine matters are communicated to our officers through the British Legation, it might not be possible to secure control of quarantine arrangements at Kermanshah for British Consular Surgeon there, and, further, to obtain from the Persian Government a definite understanding of our right to nominate officers to administer quarantine, independently of the Belgian Customs Department, not only at Kermanshah, but also at Jask, Lingah, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, and Mohammerah, so long as British trade preponderates at those places. With regard to the suggestion that a better class of medical subordinates should be employed, we will endeavour to meet Sir A. Hardinge's wishes, but an offer on our part to pay these officers ourselves appears to us of doubtful advantage, unless the point is pressed by the Persian Government. As to the pay of quarantine officers being disbursed by the Customs

Department, on which it would seem that M. Naus bases his claim to interfere, this is now equally the case with regard to other Persian officials, including Governors. Moreover, if, instead of British officers paid out of Persian revenues being employed on quarantine administration, their functions were delegated to British-paid officials, this, it appears to us, would involve a greater derogation from the dignity of the Shah.

(Repeated to Tehran.)

No. 177.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, October 28, 1904.*

ADEN. Despatch of British warship to Arabian coast.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 146 of the 25th October.

Tewfik Pasha earnestly begs your Lordship to delay dispatch of ship, and solemnly promises that on the 3rd of next month an answer will be given.

I have said, in reply, that I would communicate this message to your Lordship, but that after so many promises have proved empty ones, I could not say what faith you would feel disposed to place in this fresh one.

I concluded by reminding the Minister for Foreign Affairs that both the concessions and the patience of His Majesty's Government are exhausted, and that it would not improve matters if a new Iradé were issued, different in tenour from the assurances which he gave about the first one.

His Majesty's Government had, I said, no more to give, and if the agreement arrived at between the two Governments was not carried out, it seemed to me that a return to the original Kuddam-Akama line was the only alternative.

No. 178.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Townley.

(No. 376.)

Foreign Office, October 28, 1904.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this evening and informed me that he was instructed by the Turkish Government to say that the delay which had arisen in explaining the failure of the Turkish Government to issue the Aden Iradé was due to the fact that the information received by the Turkish Government as to the boundary question was at certain points of a contradictory nature. They therefore desired to make further inquiries, but there was no "arrière-pensée" of breaking faith with us. His Excellency was authorized to tell me that on Thursday of next week the decision of the Turkish Government would be announced both here and at the British Embassy at Constantinople. Meanwhile his Excellency was instructed to beg that His Majesty's Government would abstain from sending a British ship to Aden. The presence of such a ship could not fail to create a bad impression. I told his Excellency that, in deference to his request, I would, if the ship had not already started, give instructions that her departure should be suspended. If she had already left, I would communicate with the Admiralty as to the possibility of avoiding for the present anything which could be interpreted as a demonstration off the Aden coast.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 179.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Townley.

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October 29, 1904.*

ADEN. A similar request as that made to you by the Grand Vizier, and which you reported in your telegram No. 154 of the 28th instant, was made to me yesterday by the Turkish Ambassador, who promised a reply by the 3rd proximo.

I agreed to his request, and orders have been sent to the Commander-in-chief, East Indies, pending further instructions to take no further action.

No. 180.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Foreign Office, October 29, 1904.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letters of the 21st and 25th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a despatch to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,* recording a conversation with the Turkish Ambassador relative to the proposed dispatch of one of His Majesty's ships to make a demonstration off the Arabian coast in connection with the withdrawal of the Aden Iradé.

It will be observed that Musurus Pasha stated that the Turkish Government had no intention to break faith in the matter, that his Excellency promised that their decision would be announced not later than the 3rd November next, and that he strongly deprecated the dispatch of a British ship to Aden.

In the circumstances, Lord Lansdowne promised his Excellency that he would communicate with the Lords Commissioners with a view to suspending the departure of the ship, if she had not already started, and I am to request that their Lordships will be so good as to issue instructions in this sense.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 181.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 176 A. Confidential.)

Tabreez, September 22, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Tehran, accompanied by Mr. Churchill, on the evening of the 12th, and reached Tabreez at 4 P.M. on the 17th instant, driving as far as Zenjan (the capital of the Province of Khamseh, about 200 miles from Tehran) and riding post for the remaining 160 miles. The road struck me as, on the whole, excellent; the only pass worth mentioning—that of the Kafilan Kuh, which separates Azerbaijan from Irak—is an easy one, and the task of converting the entire track into a good carringeable road, as distinct from a road convertible into a railway, which is what the Russian Company is aiming at, should not prove costly. It is all the more to be deplored that the Persian merchants to whom the Shah appealed in 1900 to provide the necessary funds for this purpose, so as to prevent the Russians from extorting the road concession from him, should have lacked the energy and public spirit to come forward.

It may be doubted, however, whether the Russian road from Tabreez to Kazvin will prove a remunerative undertaking to the Russian Ministry of Finance, which holds the concession under the name of the "Banque d'Escompte." The nature of the country is such that it will be difficult to prevent muleteers and camelmen who wish to escape the payment of tolls from deviating from it, so as to avoid the toll stations, although in winter they can no doubt be caught at certain points, such as the bridges at the foot of the Kafilan Kuh and at Mianeh, and will have, therefore, to follow an alternative but somewhat more circuitous track. The objects of the undertaking are, however, I imagine, political rather than commercial.

There are as yet no signs of work by the Russian engineers on the Tabreez–Kazvin road, but they appear to be already busy with that from Kazvin to Hamadan, for which the Russians obtained a concession at the same time as that for the road from Tehran via Kazvin to Resht. This road runs for about 10 miles west of Kazvin parallel with and in close proximity to the present track from Kazvin to Tabreez. Portions of it have already been levelled and embanked, whilst others are as yet only marked off and pegged out. There can, I think, be little doubt that it is being constructed in such a manner as to admit of its ultimate conversion with rapidity and ease into a railway.

* No. 178.

On arriving at Mianeh, the first town in the Province of Azerbaijan, about 90 miles south-east of Tabreez, I was met by an escort under the command of the Beha-i-Nizam, an officer of the Valiahd's guard, who delivered to me a letter of welcome from His Imperial Highness, and rode with me the remainder of the way to the capital. At a garden just outside the city I was received by the Karguzar and other Representatives of the local Government, and conducted in the Valiahd's carriage to His Majesty's Consulate-General. His Imperial Highness had offered to provide me with a house, but I asked him, and he agreed, to allow me to stay at the Consulate.

On the morning of the next day, Sunday, the 18th instant, I paid my official visit to the Valiahd, accompanied by Mr. Wratislaw and Mr. Churchill, and escorted by the detachment of Bombay Cavalry recently furnished by the Government of India. Levée dress was worn by us, and the Valiahd himself was in full military uniform. Seats were offered to ourselves and to the Karguzar, the other officers of the Prince's household and our own native Mirzas remaining standing during the interview, which lasted about three-quarters of an hour, and was characterized by extreme graciousness and cordiality on the part of His Imperial Highness. Mr. Wratislaw told me that he had rarely seen him in such good spirits and so much at his ease, and his demeanour was in marked contrast to the air of constraint and embarrassment which he wore at my two audiences of him during his recent visit to Tehran. The conversation, carried on as it was before numerous spectators, was, of course, largely formal and complimentary, the only topic of serious interest being the cholera, which has now appeared at Tabreez, and of which the Valiahd, like most high-class Persians, is exceedingly afraid—so much so, that he had decided almost immediately after my reception, to start for a neighbouring country seat. At the close of my audience he announced his intention of seeing me in private on the next day or that following.

On returning to His Majesty's Consulate I received, in morning dress, and returned next day, the visits of the local Persian officials, including the Amir Nizam, Vizier and Governor-General under the Valiahd, of the Province of Azerbaijan. This office, when the present Shah was Valiahd, was one of very great importance, as its holder was the real Ruler of the province. The present Valiahd has, however, no idea of leaving the supervision of affairs in the hands of a Mayor of the Palace, and Ministers, such as the Nizam-es-Sultaneh, who have attempted to play the part, have soon found their position untenable. The Amir Nizam, who is a son-in-law of the Ataberg-i-Azam, and an elderly gentleman of dignified and courteous manners, accordingly effaces himself before His Imperial Highness, and whilst executing his instructions, avoids taking much initiative in administrative matters. The Valiahd, from all I can hear, is little influenced by any of his courtiers. Unlike his father, he has a decided will of his own, and if his actions are not always the wisest, he will, at any rate, not prove a "Roi fainéant" when the time comes for him to succeed to the throne.

As Persian etiquette prohibits the Shah and Heir-Apparent when in Persia from dining at the same table as ordinary mortals, the Amir Nizam, by the Valiahd's command, gave on the 19th instant an official dinner in my honour, to which the chief members of the household and provincial Government, besides the staff of His Majesty's Consulate-General, were invited. Mr. Wratislaw reciprocated the compliment on the following evening, the toasts of the King-Emperor and of the Prince of Wales and of the Shah and the Valiahd being duly honoured on both occasions.

On the afternoon of the 20th instant I was received in private audience by the Valiahd. Our conversation turned mainly on the thorny topic of the Urmia murders, and I am reporting on it in a separate despatch dealing with the present phase of that question. In the course of it His Imperial Highness referred, however, to his own recent difficulties with the Imperial Bank of Persia, which, as your Lordship knows, have caused him some soreness. I had observed as one reason for my wish to see an early and satisfactory settlement of the Urmia affair that there was a marked growth of cordiality in the relations of our respective Governments as compared with a year or so ago, which it would be a great pity to mar, and had mentioned as an illustration of it the recent completion of the advance of 1903, of which His Imperial Highness professed to have heard nothing. This led him to ask whether there were any truth in the rumour that negotiations were proceeding between the Persian Government and ourselves with a view to the repayment of the Russian debt, and, on my replying that there was none, to speak of his own financial difficulties, and to

express a hope that I would instruct Mr. Wratislaw to afford him support and assistance. I explained that I was away in the South when these difficulties assumed an acute form last winter, and that, had I been in Tehran, I would have done my utmost to prevail on the Chief Manager of the bank to meet his wishes. I hear from a private but not absolutely trustworthy source that he regrets having placed himself financially in the hands of the Russian Bank, more especially in view of the disposition generally attributed to the present Persian Government to lean rather towards England than towards Russia, and blames the Karguzar for having persuaded him to involve himself in his late transactions with the Russians. It would be much to be desired that the Directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia should instruct their Tabreez agent—who appears to approach these questions from a severely business standpoint—to make matters somewhat easier for the Heir to the Throne of Persia, and thus neutralize the effects of the financial hold which their past strictness has enabled the Russian Bank to acquire over him.

The Karguzar mentioned above, his Excellency Mofakher-ed-Dowleh, is entirely subservient to the Russian Consulate-General, and has been denounced as a Russian agent from the pulpit of the chief mosque here; but inasmuch as he has given Mr. Wratislaw satisfaction in respect of the comparatively few questions pending between the local Government and His Majesty's Consulate-General, I have advised the latter to cultivate friendly relations with him, and have not complained of his intimacy with the Russians. It is not, I think, to be expected that in a place like Tabreez, which is close to the Caucasian frontier and in which Russian interests are predominant, Persian Foreign Office Agents should not be to some extent under Russian influence; nor can we fairly object to this so long as it does not connote—which has not, so far, been the case—an unfriendly and obstructive attitude where British interests are concerned. In Shiraz and Bushire, which are to us much what Tabreez and Resht are to the Russians, we should expect the Karguzar to cultivate especially harmonious relations with the British Representative, and should resent Russian attempts to disturb them. I have therefore been especially civil to the Mofakher-ed-Dowleh, have reciprocated his rather effusive attentions, and have presented him with a silver inkstand. I have at the same time given a silver bowl (with the Royal arms), an aluminium telescope, and a pair of Colt pistols to the Valiahd, who has done me the honour to present me in return with a gold box bearing his name on it in diamonds.

I should mention that the Russian Consul-General, M. Pokhitonow, is the only member of the foreign Consular Body who has taken no notice of my visit to Tabreez, neither he nor any member of his staff—one of whom has dined and been to parties at my house at Tehran—having called on me or sent a representative to my "istikbal," two customary courtesies to a foreign Minister Plenipotentiary which were shown to me by the other foreign Consuls. The excuse which the Russians will doubtless make is the circumstance that their Consular Staff is now residing in summer quarters at a short distance—about 7 miles—from Tabreez; and the Acting Consul, in fact, sent a Mirza here to explain that this was the reason which had prevented them from hearing of my arrival in time to be represented at the "istikbal." The fact remains, however, that the Consul-General, who returned a day or two later from Julfa, was lunching two days afterwards in Tabreez with the Karguzar, and could perfectly, had he wished to do so, have called before returning to his country quarters, at His Majesty's Consulate-General.

I think it the most dignified course to take no notice of his somewhat marked incivility, which is on a par with that often displayed towards His Majesty's Representatives in Persia by jealous and embittered Russian Consuls. It has given rise to a certain amount of comment in Tabreez, and I am told that the complimentary visit to me of an Armenian deputation, headed by the Armenian Archpriest, and the Russian "Tajir Bashi," an Armenian, which expressed the sympathy of the Tabreez Armenians for Great Britain and their desire for British protection, was intended as a sort of protest against it. I should add that the Russian Bank Manager, who also lives out of town, called on me, and that I returned his visit at his town house next day.

The attitude of the Russian Consul-General has found a parallel in the conduct of his Vice-Consul at Urmia, the latter having taken no notice of His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez during the entire four or five months of his stay in Urmia.

With this single exception, the reception accorded to me in Tabreez by all officials, Persian and foreign, has been of a very courteous and cordial character, and I can only regret that the departure of the Valiahd owing to the outbreak of cholera

has deprived me of further opportunities, during my stay here, of consolidating the pleasant relations which, notwithstanding the somewhat delicate question of the Urmia murders and the punishment of the Kurds, have resulted from my interviews with His Imperial Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 182.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 176 B. Confidential.)

Tabreez, September 23, 1904.

My Lord,

AT the private interview with the Valiahd which I had the honour to report in my last preceding despatch, I endeavoured to impress upon his Imperial Highness the importance of no longer delaying the necessary measures for punishing the accomplices in the murder of Mr. Labaree, and assuring the safety of the British and American Missions at Urmia, and I obtained from him a definite promise, though he gave it at first somewhat reluctantly, that he would remove the Mollah Mirza Hussein Agha. He was very anxious to convince me that the accomplices of Seyed Ghaffar were not Dasht Kurds but Somais; he now knew, he said, who they were, and would arrest them, if only we would let him do so in his own way. At a subsequent interview with Mr. Churchill, at which he renewed his promise to remove the Mollah and said that he was merely waiting for the necessary instructions from the Grand Vizier, to whom he had telegraphed, he reiterated his belief in the innocence of the Dasht Kurds, and asserted that the two Somais, whom he had mentioned, but whose names he did not give, had taken refuge in Ottoman territory. He wished me, as a kind of counter-concession for the removal of the Mollah, to telegraph to this effect to the American Representative at Tehran, and to write him a letter, in Persian, so that he could read it alone and unassisted, to say that I had done so.

As my first object was to remove the Mollah I endeavoured to meet his Imperial Highness' views so far as I could, and addressed to him the letter of which I have the honour to inclose a translation herewith.

The Prince's object is undoubtedly to protect the Dasht Kurds as long as he can, either because he has promised them protection, or because he dislikes the expense of a punitive expedition, especially at this season (later when the snow covers the hills it will be harder for the Kurds to escape) and he is therefore trying to gain time by putting the whole guilt on two Somai retainers of the Dasht Begzadé, who are believed by the missionaries to have been among the men concerned in Mr. Labaree's murder, and by asserting, which is not, I believe, really the case, that they have both fled to Turkish territory. If, however, we can arrest these men their evidence may be valuable, especially if we offer to spare their lives in return for a full account of the murder and its authors, and at any rate the best way of proceeding seems to be to attain each of our objects in succession, if we cannot gain them all simultaneously. The difficulty of the whole situation hinges on the unfortunate reluctance of the Valiahd to grapple energetically with it, and his preference for tortuous methods which do not inspire much confidence in his sincerity. The pressure which could be applied by the Grand Vizier to an ordinary Governor cannot be relied upon when its object is a Prince who may at any moment ascend the Throne, and I myself am quite determined not to be drawn into a quarrel with the Heir Apparent, an end for which the Russian Consulate-General here is, I have very little doubt, working. I am therefore continuing to act, as far as I can, with and not in opposition to the Valiahd, and trusting to the effects of polite but determined pressure, both here and at Tehran, to accomplish the ends we have in view.

The United States' Government has so far not taken any strong action. Its Envoy at Tehran, whose return is, for various reasons, not desired by the American missionaries, is away on leave, and the personality of Mr. Tyler, who acts for him in his absence, does not carry much weight with the Persian Ministers. The interests at present at stake are, however, more American than British, as the sole murderer of the British protégé Daniel is already in custody, and we are now working for the arrest and punishment of accomplices who abetted him in that of Mr. Labaree. We are, no doubt, indirectly interested in effecting this object for two reasons: (1) the fact that the American citizens in Azerbaijan are under the protection of

His Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez; and (2) the probability that the security of the British missionaries at Urmia is bound up with the exemplary punishment of the murderers of one of their American colleagues. I have little doubt that my efforts in this direction will be ultimately successful, but the peculiar circumstances of the situation and the attitude of the Valiahd make the task one of considerable difficulty.

Captain Gough reached Urmia on the 16th instant. His presence has reassured the missionaries whom the Kurds, after Mr. Wratislaw's departure, were again showing signs of threatening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Sir A. Hardinge to His Imperial Highness the Valiahd.

(Translation.)

Tabreez, September 23, 1904 (12 *Redjeb*, 1322).

Your Imperial Highness,

MR. CHURCHILL has just returned from the visit which I directed him to pay your Imperial Highness this morning to inquire after your health and thank you for your gracious message of yesterday respecting mine, and he has given me a full account of the interview with which your Imperial Highness honoured him.

I learn with much regret that your Imperial Highness is not quite so well as when I had the honour of seeing you on Tuesday, and I trust that the change of air and of surroundings at Serab will entirely restore your Imperial Highness' health.

I had asked your Imperial Highness, through Mr. Churchill, to let me know in what precise way Mr. Wratislaw could have the honour of serving you, and I hasten to assure you that it will be my endeavour as well as his to carry out, so far as may be within our power, whatever wishes upon any given subject your Highness may see fit to communicate to us.

In reply to your inquiries as to my own movements I understand that Mr. Churchill has explained to you the reasons which have obliged me to defer my proposed journey to Urmia.* I gather that your Imperial Highness is also of opinion that this postponement is, under the circumstances, a wise one, however inconvenient it may be to myself, and I take this opportunity of again thanking your Highness for the renewal of your promise to adopt without delay the measures which will enable me to carry out the instructions of His Majesty's Government in regard to my visit to Urmia, without thereby giving rise to impressions which might complicate the situation and render its solution more difficult, both from a Persian and from a British point of view.

I am accordingly remaining for the immediate present at Tabreez, and am telegraphing to explain the circumstances to London. It was not my wish to trouble your Imperial Highness again on this subject, as the Royal promise you kindly gave me on Tuesday is a sufficient pledge that the needful steps will be quickly taken, and if it was again discussed to-day it was because you asked Mr. Churchill about my plans.

Mr. Churchill adds that your Imperial Highness desired me to telegraph to my American colleague at Tehran that you were satisfied that Seyed Ghaffar's accomplices were not Dasht Kurds, but Somais who had taken refuge in Ottoman territory. I am doing this, though your Imperial Highness will understand that I am not sufficiently acquainted with local details to express any personal opinion of my own as to who were the real authors of the crime, and can only cite that of your Highness as carrying special weight in view of the special sources of information at your disposal.

There has throughout seemed to be some diversity of opinion on this subject among well-informed persons. It is, however, agreed on all sides that some Somai Kurds, who were apparently at the same time retainers of Dasht Chief, were among the participators in the murder of Mr. Labaree. The names of these persons as given to Mr. Wratislaw are as follows:—

Muska-bin-Oski.
Issa-bin-Oski.

* The inexpediency of my proceeding to Urmia before our demand for the removal of the Mollah was satisfied.—A. H. H.

Your Imperial Highness has no doubt, as a result of your inquiries, ascertained which of these, and to what extent, were actually engaged in the commission of the crime.

I propose, and I feel sure that your Imperial Highness will approve, to ask the Turkish authorities to arrest any of them who may have crossed into Ottoman territory and detain them as they did Mir Latif, father of Seyed Ghaffar, with a view to their eventual surrender to the Persian Government.

I am sorry to hear that the cholera is undoubtedly present in the city, and, glad as I should have been of a further opportunity of paying my respects to your Imperial Highness before I leave it, I am happy to think that you yourself and your august family will shortly be out of reach of all danger from this epidemic, which I still hope may, in view of the advent of the cold weather, be restrained within limits if not actually and immediately stamped out.

I again renew to your Highness the expression of my respectful thanks for the many kindnesses and courtesies accorded to me by your orders since I entered the Province of Azerbaijan, and subscribe myself, with the profoundest respect, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

No. 183.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 176.)

Gulahek, September 19, 1904.

My Lord,

SIR ARTHUR HARDINGE referred to His Majesty's Consul-General at Ispahan your Lordship's despatch No. 105 of the 19th July last, relative to the Bakhtiari road.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Preece, in which he states that he has lately received 30,300 krans from the Bakhtiari Chiefs, and that he has asked them to pay in the outstanding balance of 4,704 krans, at the same time pointing out that the charge made for Mr. Glanville's journey in 1902 is a proper one, that the periodic painting and repair of the bridges is absolutely necessary and a matter altogether outside the question of the maintenance of the road in proper condition.

Your Lordship will observe that the Chiefs have informed Mr. Preece that such repairs as were pointed out to them as being necessary by Messrs. Lynch's agents, were carried out last spring, and that the road is now in fair working order.

Cholera has unfortunately broken out in the Bakhtiari country, but I trust that as the weather becomes colder it will disappear, and that Mr. Preece will be able to personally arrange with the Chiefs for any further repairs which may be required on the Ispahan-Ahwaz road.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Consul-General Preece to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 43.)

Ispahan, September 13, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 14, inclosing me a copy of a letter from the Persian Transport Company relative to the Ispahan-Ahwaz road.

I beg to inform you that I have lately received 30,300 krans from the Chiefs of the Bakhtiaris, which sum I have paid into the Imperial Bank of Persia to the credit of Messrs. Lynch's account. The balance due was 30,576 krans, which, plus the amount of 3,306 krans which should have been paid for Mr. Glanville's journey in 1902, with interest to date at 6 per cent., leaves a balance still due of 4,704½ krans, and I have asked the Chiefs to pay this sum in; at the same time I pointed out with some emphasis that this was a proper charge, and the periodic inspection of the bridges by an expert was an absolute necessity, as also was the painting of the bridges, and that this question was altogether outside of that of the road repair.

The Chiefs had sent in to see me one of their confidential Mirzas, who assures me that such repairs to the road as were pointed out to them as being necessary by Messrs.

Lynch's man, Mr. Barlow I think, have been done this spring, and that to the best of his knowledge the road is now in fair working order.

To my great regret I have just heard that cholera has broken out in Chehar Mahal and Cheikakhor, and that the Chiefs have all fled to their several villages. I hope that this will not necessitate my postponing my journey; if, however, I am able to make it, I trust to be able to induce the Chiefs to assign such a sum of money as will put the road into good working order, but I am very doubtful of success, as the temperament of the Chiefs at the present time towards Messrs. Lynch is extremely antagonistic, and it is difficult to move them.

The Mirza was with me this morning, and I inquired of him as to payment of the labourers and tools, and he informed me that the Chiefs would find all that was necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. R. PELECE.

No. 184.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 178.)
Gulahek, October 3, 1904.

My Lord,

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to transmit herewith, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mohammerah on the subject of the Karun Irrigation schemes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Mr. McDouall to Sir A. Hardinge.

(No. 6. Confidential.)
Mohammerah, August 25, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that there being an idea, consequent on the late visit of a Dutch engineer to the Karun, that the Persian Government may grant a concession for building a dam at Ahwaz, the Sardar Arfa points out that unless he held such concession or had some control over such dam, it would be likely to do immense damage to his country. A diminution in the body of water coming down would, in his opinion, affect the date groves on the Bahmashir River, as the sea water would extend further up and destroy the date trees in the same way that the plantations of Gubban were destroyed by the failure of water in the Mared or old channel of the Karun. It would also damage that part of Felahieh which is irrigated by the two canals from the Karun, known as the Salmanieh and Felahieh Canals. He would, therefore, oppose such concession, or demand heavy compensation.

There appear to be some ground for his fear, but at the same time it would probably only accelerate what is likely to happen in the course of nature, judging from the drying up of other channels in the delta and the increase of shoals in the Bahmashir.

The whole question is one for expert opinion as is that whether the cutting of a canal from the Karun from a few miles above, and into, the Bahmashir, would not divert more water into the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. McDOUALL,
His Britannic Majesty's Consul.

No. 185.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 180.)
Tehran, October 10, 1904.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 63 of the 6th instant, I addressed to the Persian Government the note, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, on the subject of the Hashmat-ul-Mulk, Amir of Seistan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 185.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

Tehran, October 7, 1904.

Your Excellency,

BY the instructions of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs I have the honour to inform your Excellency that reports have reached His Majesty's Government that the Hashmat-ul-Mulk will not be permitted to return to Seistan, and that the Governorship of that Province will not be given to either of his sons, but to some other official. I am directed by his Lordship to state that in view of their repeated representations on this subject, and after all the efforts they have made on behalf of Persia in Seistan, His Majesty's Government have received these reports with great surprise, and that they trust that they may receive an assurance from the Persian Government that they are without foundation.

I am to warn your Excellency that the desire expressed by His Imperial Majesty the Shah for the early withdrawal of Colonal McMahon and the force under his command from Seistan would not be made easier of realization by such a disturbance of the political *status quo* on the frontier as would be involved by the removal of the Hashmat-ul-Mulk from his post, or the transfer of the Acting Governorship, now vested in his son, to another official.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

No. 186.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 182. Confidential.)
Tehran, October 11, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that His Majesty the Shah recently announced his intention of going to Meshed on a pilgrimage to the shrine of the Imam Reza. His Majesty has, however, been prevented from undertaking the journey owing to an acute attack of gout, and also, I learn, owing to lack of the necessary funds to meet the great expenses which a visit to Meshed would entail. As it is important that your Lordship should be kept informed of the state of His Majesty's health, I requested Dr. Odling, Physician to this Legation, to see Dr. Schneider and Dr. Lindley, the Shah's medical advisers, and furnish me with a report.

I gather from this report, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, that His Majesty is not in any immediate danger, and, should no acute disease supervene, may continue to live for some time.

It is, I understand, practically settled that the Shah will make a tour in Europe next year, should His Majesty's condition undergo no change for the worse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 186.

Dr. Odling to Mr. Grant Duff.

Tehran, October 10, 1904.

Sir,

THE reports regarding the health of His Imperial Majesty the Shah are very conflicting, and even the European physicians are not fully in accord.

Dr. Lindley informs me that the Shah does not suffer from heart failure or Bright's disease, but states that one kidney is incompetent, owing to the formation of stone, and thus the escape of albumin occurs; there is no swelling of the extremities or œdema. Anæmia is very marked, the loss of albumin is constant, and it is doubtful if this has decreased, as it is difficult to know if the urine, when submitted for examination, has not been previously diluted. Faintings or attacks of vertigo are not infrequent, especially after prolonged exertion or mental excitement. He states that a year ago the Shah was able to ride at a walking pace for six hours, whereas this autumn one, or at the most two, hours causes fatigue, and that on the whole the Shah has lost ground. Dr. Schneider, in conversation to-day, stated that the Shah was undoubtedly better, that formerly the albumin lost in twenty-four hours varied from 3 to 4 grammes, and that now it was only 1·40 grammes. He lamented the fact that it was quite impossible to explain to His Majesty that he was suffering from serious disease, and that owing to this it is difficult to enforce a proper régime. Any unusual physical exertion of mental excitement, such as an intrigue among the courtiers, is sufficient to cause an attack of faintness. At present the Shah is suffering from a sub-acute attack of gout.

Dr. Schneider informed me that he had strongly represented to His Majesty the danger of a journey to Meshed in his present condition during the winter months, and that the Shah, in giving up the project, remarked that as the railway from Orenburg to Tashkend will be open in April (this is stated in the telegraphic news) he will go to Meshed in the spring, and from there to Europe, and this autumn will make an expedition to Jajerud.

I think there is no doubt that His Majesty requires a carefully-regulated diet, moderate exercise, freedom from mental anxiety, and residence at a comparatively low elevation. Fortunately, since his visit to Europe His Majesty no longer suffers from the passage of stone from the kidneys, and owing to the cholera epidemic this summer he has been unable to travel.

It does not appear that there is any immediate cause for anxiety with regard to the health of the Shah, but when it is remembered that one kidney is incompetent, and probably the other also to a less degree, that the heart was formerly greatly hypertrophied, and must have suffered from degenerative tendencies, and that there is constant loss of albumin and occasional attacks of gout, there is little doubt that the Shah has lost ground, and it is clear that the prognosis would be very grave should His Majesty suffer from any acute disease.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TOM F. ODLING.

No. 187.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 183.)

Tehran, October 11, 1904.

My Lord,

IN confirmation of my telegram No. 102 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that on the evening of the 23rd last, the Hashmat-ul-Mulk sent a confidential Munshi to me to say that he had learned from Amir Bahadur Jang, Minister of the Court, that His Majesty the Shah intended to keep him at Tehran as hostage, although without depriving him of the hereditary Governorship of Seistan.

A few days before receiving the Hashmat's message, I paid him a visit at his house near Gulahek, and he then strongly impressed upon me the impossibility, even if he were permitted to return, of efficiently carrying out his duties if the Yamin-i-Nizam remained in Seistan. The Yamin has, as your Lordship is aware, given us much trouble during the last two years. He is evidently maintained in office by the Persian Government for the sole object of thwarting the Hashmat-ul-Mulk, and

increasing the already great difficulties with which our Consul in Seistan has to contend.

It was in view of these considerations that I expressed my hope that your Lordship would permit me to ask for his removal. I am convinced that even if the Persian Government allow the Hashmat to return to Seistan, in consequence of the pressure brought to bear by His Majesty's Government, his position and authority will be seriously affected by the intrigues of the Yamin, who has been consistently hostile to our interests, and by no means unfriendly to those of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

No. 188.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 186.)

Tehran, October 11, 1904.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 176A of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith correspondence which has taken place between the Persian Government, His Majesty's Minister, and myself in regard to the Urmia murders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Sir A. Hardinge to Mr. Grant Duff.

Tabreez, September 24, 1904.

Telegraphic.) P.

COMMUNICATE the following confidentially from me to the United States' Chargé d'Affaires:—

I have a promise from the Valiahd, in strict confidence, to remove the Mollah immediately, if he is authorized to do so by the Central Government. He says, however, that he is convinced that the accomplices were not Dasht Kurds, but two Somai Kurds. These, I presume, are the Somai retainers of the Dasht Kurds already identified. He says they may have fled across the Ottoman frontier for the moment, but he assures me he will be able to catch them. He requested me to communicate this to you.

It is clear that Valiahd is anxious to protect the Dasht Kurds as far as he can. I trust you will continue to press Persian Government to instruct him to comply with our demands, and support pressure by strong messages from Washington. He seems to me disposed to yield, but in order to effect a completely satisfactory settlement we may still have to press hard.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Ain-ed-Dowleh.

Gulahek, September 24, 1904.

Your Highness,

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the Urmia murders, I have the honour to inform you that I have to-day received a telegram from His Majesty's Minister to the effect that the Valiahd is both able and willing to remove the Mollah from Urmia at once if the Persian Government will authorize him to do so.

Sir Arthur Hardinge directs me to express the hope that you will instruct His Imperial Highness the Valiahd in the above sense, and will support the representations already made regarding the arrest of the accomplices in the murders.

Inclosure 3 in No. 188.

The Sadr Azam to Mr. Grant Duff.

September 30, 1904.

I HAVE received your note of the 24th instant regarding Mir Ghaffar. In reply I must inform you that, in accordance with the long conversations I have had with his Excellency the British Minister and with the notes of which you are fully aware, stringent orders have been sent to the Urmia authorities for the arrest of the persons supposed by the British Legation to be accomplices in the murder committed by Mir Ghaffar, and as soon as they are arrested they will be tried, and justice done.

With regard to the Agha Mirza Hussein Mujtehed, as you are aware, besides the fact that he is one of the highly respected Mujteheds of the place, he has always been known for his sanctity, and the people of Urmia have confidence in him, and he has done nothing which would justify his removal. As I have already said in the course of previous conversation, an order for the removal of a respectable person without legal reason is not to be permitted, and will make a bad impression on the population. I have no doubt you will explain the matter to the Minister in a suitable manner and his Excellency, who is fully acquainted with the previous conversations, will not require any order to be issued in this matter.

(Signed and sealed) AIN-ED-DOWLEH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 188.

Mr. Grant Duff to Sir A. Hardinge.

Gulahek, September 30, 1904.

(Telegraphic.) P.

REPLY from Ain-ed-Dowleh, extracted with some difficulty, is briefly as follows:—

Urmia authorities have been ordered to arrest the accomplices. When caught, they will be tried according to law. The Mollah is a man of great sanctity, and one of the chief of the Ulema. To remove him would make a bad impression on the population, and he has done nothing to justify this measure. Please inform Minister of the above who doubtless will then no longer require the Persian Government to issue such orders. The Grand Vizier states he has already discussed the matter with you verbally.

Inclosure 5 in No. 188.

Sir A. Hardinge to Mr. Grant Duff.

October 1, 1904.

(Telegraphic.) P.

FOLLOWING for Grand Vizier from me:—

Viliahd informs me that Mollah is a bad character, that he easily can remove him, and that he pledges his royal word to do so immediately if only the Central Government will let him. Should the Ain-ed-Dowleh refuse us this satisfaction and merely order the arrest of the murderers' accomplices, which the Governor of Urmia has again and again refused to do, as he has neither money nor troops, he is trifling with His Majesty's Government, and it only remains for me to proceed home and inform them that this is the case, deferring my visit to Urmia till I return from England. The Sadr Azam must see that such obstruction by the Persian Government will render very much more difficult for me the arrangement of the advance which they require. If, however, he does not feel strong enough to authorize the removal of the Mollah, will he, as an alternative, dismiss the present unsatisfactory Governor of Urmia and replace him by the Fath-es-Sultan of the Majd-es-Saltaneh, providing a force adequate to compelling the immediate surrender of all the persons reported to the missionaries as implicated in the murders. Energetic action immediately is necessary, I would have been contented for the immediate present with the removal of the Mollah, but if this concession is refused us, I must insist on military measures being taken at once against the Kurds. It would probably not be difficult to organize for a few thousand tomans an armed expedition from Mawana or elsewhere, but the Persian Government must find the necessary funds.

See the Ain-ed-Dowleh yourself and point out to him that the matter is becoming gravely scandalous, and that I have every right to complain that the Central Government is preventing the Valiahd from giving effect to the pledges he has repeatedly and emphatically given me with regard to the removal of the Mollah.

Inclosure 6 in No. 188.

Mr. Grant Duff to Sir A. Hardinge.

October 3, 1904.

(Telegraphic.) P.

I SAW the Sadr Azam yesterday evening and delivered your message, of which, at his request, I am sending him a copy. All the old arguments, to the effect that the Persian Government had arrested the murderer and were doing their utmost to catch the accomplices were repeated. According to Mussulman law, he said, Mujteheds could do no wrong, and nothing had been proved against the Mollah. Our interview lasted nearly two hours. I pointed out as strongly as possible how important we considered a settlement of the case to be and that continued obstruction might bring about serious results. At length he consented to lay the matter again before the Shah and to try to persuade His Majesty to give orders to summon the Mollah to Tabreez; but if this were done, he said, the Persian Government would consider the case as settled. I pointed out the brutal nature of the crimes and said His Majesty's Government would certainly not consider it settled until a proper trial had taken place at Tabreez, and the guilty parties had been punished with the utmost severity of the law.

I added, speaking unofficially, that I felt convinced that the United States' Government would hold similar views. The Grand Vizier finally said that he would place the matter before the Shah.

Inclosure 7 in No. 188.

Mr. Grant Duff to Sir A. Hardinge.

October 5, 1904.

(Telegraphic.) P.

I VISITED the Sadr Azam to-day. He informed me that he had submitted your proposals to the Shah, who considers them unreasonable, that they may cause grave internal troubles, and that you are creating difficulties.

We again discussed the matter at length, and his Highness, who was most intractable, finally said he would ask the Valiahd whether it was possible to summon the Mollah to Tabreez. He refused to telegraph, stating that the instructions would be very complicated. The Valiahd would consider the instructions, and report whether it was possible to carry them out. I attempted, but in vain, to make him understand that the Valiahd had already told you he was ready to bring the Mollah to Tabreez, but the Grand Vizier merely replied that he was not confident of his Imperial Highness' readiness to do this. His Highness implied that if the Mollah was brought to Tabreez, the case must be considered as settled. I tried to make him see the absurdity of this view. I said I was certain my Government would not consider it settled till murderer and accomplices had met with due punishment. This, his Highness said, was a secondary consideration, but guilty persons would be punished according to Persian law, which apparently gives Seyeds impunity.

I think the Sadr Azam is trifling with us, and that, without strong measures, nothing will be done. His attitude is uncompromising, and he is clearly trying to shield the murderers.

Inclosure 8 in No. 188.

Sir A. Hardinge to Mr. Grant Duff.

Tabreez, October 8, 1904.

(Telegraphic.) P.

TELL the Grand Vizier from me that according to a report from our Consul at Urmia, a very slight show of energy would suffice to bring about the surrender of the accomplices, and that the Valiahd, whom I have just visited near Serab, has again promised to remove the Mollah if only the Central Government will authorize him to do so.

I make a final earnest appeal to his Highness to do this by telegraph, to enable me to report to my Government before I leave here in a few days' time, that a serious effort is being made to meet our demands. This is no question of politics, but one of common justice, and of the duty of every civilized State to afford protection to its guests against outrage.

Inclosure 9 in No. 188.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Ain-ed-Dowleh.

Tehran, October 9, 1904.

Your Highness,

I DID not fail to communicate to Sir A. Hardinge the substance of the conversation which I had the honour to have with you on the 5th instant on the subject of the Urmia murders. Sir A. Hardinge has now directed me to inform your Highness that Major Gough, who is at Urmia, reports that a very slight show of energy on the part of the Persian Government would produce the surrender of the accomplices. His Imperial Highness the Valiahd, by whom Sir A. Hardinge has just had the honour of being received near Serab, has again promised to remove the Mollah if only the Persian Government will authorize him to do so. In these circumstances His Majesty's Minister wishes to make an earnest and final appeal to your Highness to give the necessary instructions to his Imperial Highness, so that he may be able to report to the Marquess of Lansdowne before leaving Tabreez in a few days' time that an effort is being made by the Persian Government to comply with our demands. The question at issue is not, in Sir A. Hardinge's opinion, one of politics, but of common justice, and of the duty of every civilized State to protect its guests against outrage.

In view of Sir A. Hardinge's approaching departure from Tabreez, I would ask your Highness to be so good as to send me an early reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 10 in No. 188.

Mr. Grant Duff to Sir A. Hardinge.

October 8, 1904.

(Telegraphic.) P.

I HEAR from the United States' Chargé d'Affaires that his Government, in reply to an urgent telegram which he showed you some time ago, instruct him to press matters discreetly. He thinks these instructions are due to the impending Presidential elections in the United States.

No. 189.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 188.)

Tehran, October 12, 1904.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 64 of the 10th instant, I addressed to the Persian Government the note, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, on the subject of the murders at Urmia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure in No. 189.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Ain-ed-Dowleh.

Tehran, October 11, 1904.

Your Highness,

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the murders of Mr. Daniels and Mr. Labarree at Urmia, I have the honour, by the instructions of the Marquess of Lansdowne, to inform your Highness that His Majesty's Government

have been expecting to hear that the Persian Government have complied with their just demands for the removal of the Mollah and for the arrest of the accomplices of the murderer, and I am to inquire why the orders issued in June last by the Persian Government, at the request of His Majesty's Minister, have not yet been carried out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

No. 190.

Mr. Grant Duff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 189.)

Tehran, October 12, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the monthly summary of news in Persia not reported in separate despatches.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 190.

Monthly Summary of Events in Persia not reported in Separate Despatches.

Ispahan.—Fiscal reform is making good progress. Money is paid into the local treasury with praiseworthy regularity, and the Belgian official in charge professes himself well satisfied with the results so far.

Cholera is abating in the whole province, only a few sporadic cases now occurring in Ispahan. There have been some cases at Yezd.

Kermanshah.—Negotiations have been concluded for the purchase of a house and garden for His Majesty's Consulate.

Cholera, of which there was a recrudescence consequent on the reappearance of Agha Fazel Mameghani returning with his mob of pilgrims to Kerbela from Meshed, is again subsiding. Between the 16th and 26th September there were thirty-five deaths.

Fiscal reform is said to have been accepted without protest. The Customs Department are paying pensions and civil salaries at a discount of 12 per cent.

Many British-Indian and Russian pilgrims are now stranded in Kermanshah, having been prohibited by the Turkish Government from crossing the frontier on their way to Kerbela, on account of the cholera.

The country round Kermanshah is very insecure at present, murders and robberies being frequent, even in the outskirts of the town.

Shiraz.—The Shoa-es-Saltaneh returned to town at the end of August.

Cholera has almost completely disappeared. The official estimate of the number of deaths during the epidemic is 3,300, but 5,000 would probably be nearer the mark.

Order has been restored in the environs of Shiraz, which were much disturbed during the cholera. Minor disturbances are reported from Fasa, which is at feud with its local Governor, and from Dehbid, where measures taken by the Nasr-ed-Dowleh seem to have been adequate to restore quiet.

The Bushire post was robbed on the 6th September.

A disturbance has also occurred at Borasjun between the men of the Ijlal-ed-Dowleh, uncle of the Shoa-es-Saltaneh, and the inhabitants of the town, and some Telegraph Department Gholams were beaten for not allowing their fodder to be taken away without payment. The matter seems to be on a fair way to being settled locally.

A Court of Justice was held by the Prince Governor in the beginning of September. Two men convicted of theft of corn (they frightened away its owners by impersonating the cholera) were sentenced to have their hands cut off; a third, against whom a previous conviction in the time of the Prince's first Governorship was proved, and who had then had the fingers of his right hand cut off, was at first remanded. Next day he was led round the town with a string through his nose and sentenced to have his foot cut off. "Why not my head?" he said, upon which the Prince flew into a rage and had him forthwith blown from a gun.

Tehran.—The Russian and Turkish Armenians in Persia are said to be combining in order to give trouble to Russia. Meetings have been held, money subscribed, and arms purchased. The Russian Legation is said to have made representations to the Persian Government on this subject, which was also mentioned in Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 108 of the 17th June.

The Sepah Salar, Minister of War, has for a long time been expected by optimists to die at once. The Court is much excited as to who is to be his successor. Amir Bahadur Jang, the Vazir Darbar and Commander of the Shah's bodyguard, is the favourite at present, as he has the Shah's ear and is very influential; but the Ain-ed-Dowleh is said to covet the post with the idea of putting it into the hands of a Commission of four persons under his own immediate orders. The Salar-ed-Dowleh, third son of the Shah, and late Governor-General of Arabistan, would also like to get it. Meanwhile, the Sepah Salar's health is improving.

The Persian Government has decided to abolish the Tehran Imperial College. This was the only Persian institution existing which attempted anything like modern education. It had various European professors for the different branches of study, and some years ago might be called fairly efficient; but for some time it had been allowed to degenerate. Its cost was about 40,000 tomans per annum.

The Shah's sister, wife of the Zahir-ed-Dowleh, who some time ago eloped to Paris (Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 118 of the 21st June), was brought back to Persia by her husband, and is now in Tehran making her peace with her Imperial brother. Her husband, however, was not allowed to come back further than Baku, where he now is in disgrace, and trying to get permission to enter Persia.

Meshed.—It is reported that the Persian Government is still taking interest, though of a somewhat academic character, in the Musabad boundary question (Sir A. Hardinge's despatch No. 101). Their action does not go further than calling for frequent reports.

A handbill has been circulated freely in the Persian language at Meshed, as well as at Resht, Shiraz, and other towns, to refute the rumours current that Russian finance is in disorder owing to the war, and that Persia's indebtedness to her is to be transferred to Belgian or French financiers. The issue broadcast of this handbill is symptomatic of the endeavours Russia is making to keep up her prestige in this country, somewhat damaged by her reverses in the Far East; but as it mentions, besides an imposing array of figures representing Russia's internal financial resources, the fact that a loan of 300,000,000 roubles was contracted only this spring in Paris, it has not produced the effect desired, and Persians, not unnaturally, ask themselves why, if she is so rich, does she find it necessary to borrow money abroad.

Kuchan.—Much discontent is reported, owing to the exactions of the Governor, the Shuja-ed-Dowleh. The Russians are said to be fomenting it, and to intend to send a Consul there to replace their present Agent. Troops have been sent to maintain order, and the Reis-ut-Tujjar, the financier of the Governor, a Russian creature and a very disturbing element in the town, has been summoned to Meshed.

Fiscal Reform: A new Belgian is to be added to the Meshed staff to assist in this work; all revenue money is now handed over to M. Castaigne, who is shortly to be intrusted with the payment of salaries to civil officials; this will impose a considerable check on the peculations of Persian officials, and is correspondingly unpopular.

It is reported that the Orenburgh-Tashkend Railway has been joined up. This, however, is not as yet absolutely trustworthy, and a man has been sent to ascertain the exact state of affairs.

Seistan.—The new Russian Consul, M. Ovsienko, arrived on the 17th August, and made his formal entry into the city, with an imposing caravan, in one of the most terrific storms of wind and dust which has occurred this year. He brought with him from Meshed six fourgons, which did the journey well and arrived in good condition. This would show that, at a comparatively small expense, a serviceable carriage road could be constructed between Seistan and Meshed.

It is said that the Hashmat-ul-Mulk is trying to have the Yamin-i-Nizam poisoned, but the latter is aware of the plot, and is taking the necessary precautions.

The Yamin-i-Nizam has protested to Colonel MacMahon against the construction by the Afghans, some 6 miles above Band-i-Seistan, of a dam. Colonel MacMahon has pointed out that the dam is of an insignificant character, and that the Persians cannot be in great want of water at present, as they have as yet taken no measures to carry out the necessary annual repairs to their big dam at Band-i-Seistan. Complaints

on this point, instigated probably by the Russians, were also made to His Majesty's Legation in Tehran.

Kerman.—M. van Roosbroeck, the local Belgian, has taken over the receipt of revenue, but has had considerable difficulty. He has also begun the payment of pensions.

Small-pox has been prevalent in Kerman, but cholera has not appeared.

(Signed) R. C. LINDSAY.

October 12, 1904.

Inclosure 2 in No. 190.

Inclosure to Meshed Diary No. 86 *for week ending September* 3, 1904.

Russian Military Movements.

Ashkabad Reports.

August 18.—The two men from Badghis have returned to Merv after an interview with the Governor.

August 19.—150 infantry arrived from west—apparently railway troops.

August 20.—The local Turkomans complained officially that three months ago they were warned to get ready 7,000 camels, and that keeping these camels collected like this is causing them much trouble and expense.

August 21.—150 artillery horses have arrived from west.

August 22.—150 men of the 2nd Trans-Caspian Railway Battalion arrived from west.

Merv Reports.

August 11.—A train passed eastwards—11 waggons rails, rest of train full of sleepers—said to be for Tashkent.

August 13.—Turkomans say Russians have demanded 120 men from each Alchin—a demand they have refused to comply with.

August 15.—100 infantry left for Kushk.

August 16.—100 infantry passed on main line to west.

August 17.—7 officers passed on main line to east, it is said, for Ak Masjid (Perovsk). These officers were 3 Engineer Generals, 2 Railway Engineers, and 2 other officers. 50 Cossacks left on horseback towards Kushk.

August 18.—A train of 37 waggons passed going east, consisting of—

7 waggons containing 60 gunners and 4 officers.
10 ,, ,, horses.
12 ,, ,, rails.
8 closed waggons.

August 20.—The railway-shed caught fire during the night, and was burnt with all in it.

August 22.—Between 200 and 300 infantry arrived from the east.

August 23.—A Cossack was murdered by a Turkoman. All trains passing either way now have some soldiers in them. 4 waggons of rails passed eastwards.

August 24.—The Merv garrison now consists of—

2,000 infantry.
500 Cossacks.
6 guns—apparently a battery H.A.

These numbers are correct; I saw them on parade. The other 6 guns were sent to Sheikh Junaid last night.

Sheikh Junaid Reports.

(This report given by a man sent by Merv Agent.)

August 15.—Saw 200 Cossacks at Chaman-i-Bed. Saw large quantities rails at Kari Yaz. Strength of Kushk garrison :—

2,000 infantry.
400 Cossacks.
30 guns—Horse or Field Artillery complete, with waggons, horses, men, &c.

Half the town has been converted into a railway station. A railway line runs from the town to the barrack in Chahar Taku direction; this is used to carry rubbish, &c. There is a large quantity of iron railway material in the town. It is stated that many labourers are employed on the Pul-i-Khatun (to Sheikh Junaid) road. The Russians are very suspicious, and allow none but regular residents in Kushk.

Charjui Reports.

No. 1 *Agent's Report.*

August 8.—20 infantry left by steamer towards Kerki.

August 14.—25 waggons ammunition and 60 infantry arrived from west; the ammunition and 20 infantry were sent on towards Kerki by steamer.

August 19.—80 infantry passed by rail going east.

August 20.—3 waggons ammunition arrived from west.

August 24.—22 waggons, each containing about 20 infantry, passed by rail to the east.

August 25.—50 horses passed by rail to the east. The Amir of Bokhara arrived here two days ago on pilgrimage.

No. 2 *Agent's Report.*

August 13.—I arrived here. I stopped at Kaahka *en route*; there are about 300 men there. There are about 600 men here in Charjui.

August 15.—About 800 bags rice sent towards Kerki.

August 16.—10 to 12 boxes ammunition passed by rail to the east.

August 20.—About 100 infantry, bearing numbers 25 T, 29 T, 18 T, arrived from east.

(Signed) H. SMYTH, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure to Meshed Diary No. 87 *for week ending September* 10, 1904.

RUSSIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

A new railway battalion—called the Kushk Railway Battalion—has been formed; the 150 men reported arriving at Ashkabad on the 19th August belonged to that battalion.

Krasnovodsk Reports.

No. 1 *Agent's Report.*

August 13.—The Turkoman and Kirghiz elders have been assembled here and asked to supply mounted men for the Japanese war. They absolutely refused, alleging that, by the orders of a former Governor-General (General Annenkoff), they were especially exempt from such services. They were then asked for a money contribution. 22 waggon loads supplies sent east. 100 infantry left for Russia.

August 14.—90 infantry passed eastwards. 6 waggons supplies sent east.

August 17.—There were 1,100 infantry camped 5 versts outside the town: 600 of these left by night eastwards.

August 18.—204 cases ammunition and 51 carts sent east by rail.

August 19.—30 cases rifles sent east. The garrison here about 2,000 men.

No. 2 *Agent's Report.*

August 13.—10 waggons supplies sent east.

August 14.—20 waggons supplies sent east.

August 15.—115 infantry passed eastwards. 8 waggons supplies sent east.

August 16.—2 Generals passed eastwards.

August 18.—15 waggons ammunition and large number carts sent east.

August 19.—3 waggons ammunition sent east. Half of the soldiers quartered 5 versts outside the town have been sent east. The Russians have demanded horsemen from the Kirghiz, who assembled here in large numbers, but the demand was refused.

August 20.—9 waggons supplies sent east. 52 Cossacks and 62 infantry passed to Russia.

August 21.—180 infantry passed to Russia.

August 23.—200 men of the 1st Transcaspian Railway Battalion passed to Russia. 15 waggons fodder sent east.

August 24.—9 waggons, containing guns, with 18 horses and 11 waggon-supplies, sent east. 80 Cossacks and 60 infantry passed to Russia.

August 25.—400 cases rifles sent east.

August 26.—200 infantry passed to Russia. 1,000 bags dried bread sent east. It is stated that the Reserves have been called out.

Ashkabad Reports.

August 25.—200 infantry arrived from west; 50 remained, the rest went on to Merv.

August 26.—50 infantry and 30 Cossacks arrived from west. 100 invalids arrived from east. No one is permitted to go to, or come from, Merv, on account of cholera.

August 27.—It is said that a considerable number of troops have gone to Tajend. 200 Cossacks, with their horses, have come by train from the east—from Sarakhs, it is said. Troops are being sent here because there is no cholera, as at Kaaka and Merv; all the troops here are camped round about.

August 28.—100 infantry have arrived from the west. 400 men 1st Transcaspian Railway Battalion have arrived from east. It is said that large numbers of troops are expected here soon.

August 29.—100 infantry arrived from the west.

August 31.—A train full of troops arrived from Merv last night, but no one was allowed near the station.

There are now about 6,000 men here, as follows:—

Frontier guard (cavalry)	400 men.
Kavkaz and Kuban Cossacks	300 ,,
Turkoman Cavalry	100 ,,
Geok Tepe Battalion	1 battalion.
1st Transcaspian Railway Battalion	400 men.
Transcaspian Rifles	2 battalions.
Turkestan troops (mixed)	350 men.
Miscellaneous infantry	300 ,,

Sarakhs Reports.

August 19.—The Turkomans here have been ordered to supply 1,200 camels. 65 camel-loads fodder sent Pul-i-Khatun.

August 25.—The Turkomans have been warned to supply 150 horsemen for service on the Sheikh Junaid and Panjdeh roads. 50 camel-loads flour sent Ak Robat. 50 camel-loads flour sent Naurozabad and Ak Tappeh.

Merv Reports.

August 24.—400 Cossacks arrived from west, 200 of whom remained here, the rest going on to Sheikh Junaid.

August 28.—4 new engines and 300 workmen sent towards Sheikh Junaid, where it is rumoured railway construction is proceeding.

August 30.—14 waggons, rails, 100 Cossacks, and 100 infantry sent towards Sheikh Junaid.

Charjui Reports.

No. 1 *Agent's Report.*

August 27.—The Governor of Tashkent departed eastwards.

August 31.—50 infantry arrived by steamer from Kerki.

September 1.—500 infantry have gone into camp some little distance from Charjui. There is much talk of cholera; doctors travel on every train.

No. 2 *Agent's Report.*

August 23.—The Governor of Tashkent came from Kerki, and left by rail westwards. 10 boxes ammunition and 8 boxes rifles passed from west to east by rail.

August 25.—50 infantry sent east by rail.

August 26.—4 guns and 10 boxes ammunition passed eastwards by rail. Large numbers of troops are expected to arrive soon for the Oxus posts.

(Signed) H. SMYTH, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure to Meshed Diary No. 88 *for week ending September* 17, 1904.

RUSSIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

Mr. Tanner, Telegraph Superintendent, who arrived this week from England viâ Baku and Krasnovodsk, noticed nothing unusual except that large quantity rolling-stock collected at Krasnovodsk.

Krasnovodsk Reports.

August 22.—390 boxes rifle ammunition sent east. 9 waggons supplies sent east.

August 24.—The waggons containing guns, previously reported on this date as sent east, included 3 guns about 6-inch calibre and 19 cases gun ammunition.

August 27.—200 Kuban Cossacks, without horses, passed to Russia. 700 infantry passed to Russia. 1,600 bags supplies sent east.

August 28.—90 soldiers passed to Russia. 6 waggons ammunition sent east. 16 waggons fodder sent east.

August 29.—19 waggons supplies sent east. 182 cases of rifles sent east.

August 30.—200 shells for 8-inch gun sent east. 13 waggons fodder sent east.

August 31.—2 guns, 71 carts, 6 waggons supplies sent east.

September 1.—2,900 boxes rifle cartridges sent east. 150 cases gun ammunition sent east. 5 guns and 23 gun carriages sent east.

September 3.—4,000 boxes rifle cartridges sent east. Trade in Russia is paralysed by the large number of reservists called out and sent to the front; many large merchants are bankrupt. No troops from the Caucasus have yet been sent to Manchuria. It is stated that 50,000 troops are coming to Turkestan from Russia. The reserves here are being called out. The Kirghiz tribes in this district are loyal to the Russians, but the Turkomans are disaffected. There are about 900 troops in the town and some more camped 5 versts outside.

Ashkabad Reports.

September 6.—200 Kuban Cossacks arrived from the west. No one is allowed to go to the railway station. There is strict quarantine against arrivals from Merv and Krasnovodsk.

September 7.—400 infantry arrived from east and went into camp at once.

September 8.—Some soldiers told me that these troops at Ashkabad are being collected for dispatch to the Herat frontier and that more troops are expected here. These soldiers also stated that the Turkomans have been asked to supply camels, but have refused to do so.

September 9.—200 Cossacks with their horses have arrived here and have gone into camp. There are now 7,000 men camped near Ashkabad. The detail of troops given last week was incomplete. There are also—

	Men.
Artillerymen, about	200
Kushk Railway Battalion	200
2nd Transcaspian Railway Battalion	650

There is now a complete Cossack regiment.

Sarakhs Reports.

September 2.—All the troops have gone into camp.

September 4.—60 camel-loads fodder sent Sheikh Junaid.

Charjui Reports.

September 6.—250 labourers passed by rail eastwards to work on railway construction.

September 8.—The garrison here is now 200 infantry and 12 officers. (This, evidently, does not include the 500 infantry in camp—see Charjui report of the 1st September, attached Meshed Diary No. 87.)

(Signed) H. SMYTH, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure to Meshed Diary No. 89 *for week ending September* 24, 1904.

RUSSIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

September 6.—A Special Agent, a man of intelligence and education, who has for the last two months been engaged in travelling all over Russian Turkestan to collect information *re* transport, reports that there is great activity everywhere; ammunition being forwarded and provisions collected in large quantities, while elaborate preparations are being made to secure a large number of carts, horses, and camels when required. A large amount of tents are being requisitioned from the Bokhariot Turkomans.

An Agent travelling to Tashkent reports—

September 12.—Some days ago a train containing 276 cavalry, with horses, passed Artik Station eastwards, said to be for Kushk; each waggon contained 6 men and 6 horses. 40 Cossacks on horseback also passed Artik at the same time in the same direction. There are 5 infantry soldiers now at every wayside station.

Krasnovodsk Reports.

September 5.—A large quantity dried bread sent east.

September 6.—83 infantry and 19 cavalry passed eastwards.

September 8.—21 lady nurses with (Red Cross) badges passed eastwards.

September 12.—The quarantine is not strict here now. On account of the Turkomans' refusal to supply mounted men for foreign service, they are being

harassed by quarantine and police restrictions. Their elders have been imprisoned, and Turkomans are arrested every day. The Kirghiz, on the contrary, are being treated with marked favour on account of their submissive attitude; on the birth of the Czarevitch many Kirghiz convicts were released. A steamer full of ammunition and one barge containing 40 guns arrived here the other day, but these guns and ammunition are still on board ship, and no one knows when they are to be landed. The garrison here is being gradually sent east by night train. There are now less than 1,000 men here, as follows:—

50 men in camp 5 versts from town.
300 men of Geok Tepe Reserve Battalion in town.
300 men 1st Transcaspian Railway Battalion east of town.
100 Cossacks.
5 guns on heights round town; these guns take a ball of 18 lbs.

There are also the following stores here: —

32 stacks forage.
4 storehouses full of barley.
16 ,, ,, food supplies.
9 ,, ,, ammunition.

Ashkabad Reports.

September 12.—14 waggons flour arrived from the west, but this flour has not been removed from the railway station. 4 waggons full of rifles in cases arrived from the west.

September 14.—2 waggons full of rifles in cases arrived from the west. These cases were unloaded, but are still lying at the station with the cases of rifles previously received; more are said to be coming, too.

(N.B.—I calculate a waggon load of rifles would be at least 70 cases, each containing 10 rifles, equals 700 rifles; so 6 waggon loads would be between 4,000 and 5,000 rifles.)

Intercourse with Merv is still strictly prohibited. All the troops are still in camp.

Sarakhs Reports.

September 15.—30 camel loads fodder sent Ak Robat; 30 camel loads fodder sent Pul-i-Khatun.

Charjui Reports.

August 29.—8 heavy guns arrived from the west; remained here one day, and were then sent on eastwards by rail.

August 30.—8 boxes ammunition arrived from the west.

September 1.—20 cases ammunition passed from west to east.

September 3.—The official in charge of the bazaar informed the shop-keepers that large numbers of troops would soon be passing through to Samarkand, and that they should get supplies ready for them.

September 9.—The Chief of the Russian troops in Tashkent (? Chief Staff Officer, who is a General Officer) passed westwards to Merv, it is said.

September 11.—An officer of high rank, with 50 infantry, left towards Kerki by steamer. Trains from the west often come in empty now, as passengers not allowed to come from the Ashkabad side on account of cholera in the Merv district; but both trains and steamers going in either direction generally have small parties of from 15 to 20 soldiers on them.

(Signed) H. SMYTH, *Captain,*
Military Attache.

No. 191.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 832.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 26, 1904.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 338 of the 24th September, respecting the murder of Bahreinese by members of the Behaih tribe, I have the honour to report that I have informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the statements furnished by the Government of India entirely dispose of the assertion of the local authorities in regard to the alleged fate of all the assailants of Sheikh Selman. I also presented him with a Memorandum containing the information with which the Embassy was now in a position to supply his Excellency concerning the names of the leaders of the assault, and other particulars mentioned in Mr. Gashin's letter to Major Cox of the 11th June. I added that the British Government had a right to expect that the Porte, with these details in its possession, would make some more effectual attempt to bring the offenders to justice, otherwise we could not reasonably continue to restrain the Sheikh from taking the matter into his own hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

No. 192.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams to the Viceroy, dated the 24th October, and from the Viceroy, dated the 28th October, relative to the Muscat arbitration.

India Office, October 29, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 192.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, October* 24, 1904.

MUSCAT. Please refer to Political Secretary's letter of the 29th July last forwarding draft Agreement with French Government as to the arbitration. Signature of formal Agreement took place on the 13th instant, marginal alterations shown on draft being incorporated in text as signed.

Inclosure 2 in No. 192.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 28, 1904.

MUSCAT arbitration.

Your telegram of the 24th October.

Local officers recommend that, before our case is submitted, it is desirable that demand for list should be pressed. In this view I concur.

Political Agent at Muscat has been asked by American Consul there, acting at the instance of American Legation at The Hague, to furnish a written statement of the history of the case and of the terms on which it has been submitted to The Hague Tribunal. Instructions are being sent to Political Agent that he should suggest to American Consul that it would be best that the desired information as to the facts submitted for arbitration should be obtained through American Ambassador in London. Political Agent has at the same time been instructed to represent the local aspects of the case to the American Consul.

No. 193.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of telegrams to the Viceroy, dated the 24th instant, and from the Viceroy, dated the 28th instant, relative to the threatened removal of the Hashmat-ul-Mulk from Seistan.

India Office, October 29, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 193.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, October* 24, 1904.

HASHMAT-UL-MULK. Please refer to the telegram No. 102 of the 24th September last from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran to Lord Lansdowne. After Sir A. Hardinge had been consulted, representation was made to Persian Government by Grant Duff to the effect that fulfilment of the wish expressed by the Shah for the withdrawal of Colonel McMahon will not be facilitated by disturbance of *status quo* consequent upon the removal of the Hashmat from the Governorship of Seistan, or the transfer from his son of the Acting Governorship. Reply of the Persian Government was presented on the 20th instant by the Persian Minister in London; it contained no satisfactory assurance as to the Hashmat, while interference in internal affairs of Persia was deprecated. Persian Minister was informed in reply by Lord Lansdowne that dismissal of Hashmat could not fail to have most unfortunate effect, as it would be attributed to his goodwill to us; Lord Lansdowne added that it would create a situation which might compel His Majesty's Government to alter their policy with regard to Seistan and the adjoining regions fundamentally. Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran has been instructed to hold similar language.

Please see also the report as to the intention to appoint Yamin-i-Nizam as Governor, contained in telegram dated the 20th instant from Meshed. I should be glad to learn your views.

Inclosure 2 in No. 193.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 28, 1904.

HASHMAT-UL-MULK. Your telegram of the 24th instant.

Action of His Majesty's Government in opposing the withdrawal of the Hashmat and the appointment of the Yamin-i-Nizam in his place has our entire concurrence. We regard as most unsatisfactory the present attitude of the Persian Government in the matter of the Henjam–Bunder Abbas and Seistan telegraph lines, the introduction at Meshed of fresh Russian signallers, the quarantine arrangements in the Persian Gulf, and the Gudar-Balutak Customs post, and also with regard to the proposal for the withdrawal of the Consular guards in Persia. No attempt is likely to be made at present by Russia to retaliate by augmenting the guard of the Russian Consul in Seistan (the strength of which is even now greater than that of our Consul), so as to be equal to Colonel McMahon's escort. Should she, however, take any such step, it will, in our opinion, be necessary for countervailing action of the same character to be taken by us, and in the event of her protesting against the retention of the Mission, our answer is that Mission has not yet completed its work; and we may say also that, just as the Russian Government have for years retained their Commission at Gumbaz-i-Kabus, so we may have no alternative but to keep our Commission in Seistan, having regard to the risk of frontier complications and of trouble with the Afghans, to which

the dislocation of old-established arrangements in Seistan may give rise. In the event of the present anti-British policy in Seistan being persisted in by the Persian Government, it might with advantage be intimated to them that we would not be disposed in future to take active measures, as we have done in the past, with a view to increasing, on behalf of the Persian Government, our influence with the maritime and frontier Chiefs, over whom the Persian Government have even now found the maintenance of their direct control a matter of difficulty. Moreover, it may be necessary for us to assign to the question of securing control of the Helmund a more prominent place in the negotiations pending with the Ameer than we are at present disposed to give to it.

No. 194.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams to the Viceroy, dated the 25th October, and from the Viceroy, dated the 28th October, relative to the proposal to withdraw Consular guards in Persia.

India Office, October 29, 1904.

Inclosure 1 in No. 194.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, October* 25, 1904.

CONSULAR guards in Persia.

I should be glad to receive your views on proposal that we should withdraw our guards, provided Russians withdraw theirs. See telegram of the 22nd October from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tehran.

Inclosure 2 in No. 194.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P. *October* 28, 1904.

YOUR telegram of the 25th October, as to the proposed withdrawal of Consular guards in Persia.

It is significant that, before any reference was made to British Legation at Tehran, these negotiations were in progress at St. Petersburgh. Probability of a satisfactory arrangement being made for withdrawal of Consular guards appears remote, and the disturbed state of the country fully justifies their retention. Instances are the riot in June 1903 in Seistan; the unrest which prevailed at Meshed in May 1904; attacks on Shushan; chronic turmoil in Luristan and Arabistan, and the recent Urumia outrages, as well as the constant insecurity in the neighbourhood of Kerman and Bunder Abbas, as to which we are about to propose that a representation should be made to the Persian Government. Russian officers and interests would not be exposed, by the withdrawal of their Consular guards, to risks equal to those which the withdrawal of our guards would entail upon us, as their establishments might be protected by detachments from the Cossack Brigade, which have been practically interchangeable with Russian escorts in connection with the Khorassan quarantine cordons. The only possible basis for the withdrawal of the British escorts appears to be the institution of a Persian force, similar to the Cossack Brigade, under the command of British officers.

(Repeated to Tehran.)

No. 195.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.—(Communicated by India Office October 31.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *India Office, October* 31, 1904.

ADEN delimitation. Instructions have been given that dispatch of man-of-war should be postponed. This step was taken by Lord Lansdowne in consequence of earnest representations made to him by Turkish Ambassador, who has promised answer will be given by his Government on the 3rd November.

(Repeated to Aden.)

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